

The Virgin Beach Sun

Friday, December 5, 1997



BEACH NEWS and VIEWS

69th Year

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35 Cents

Farming holiday

Join Captain George's Seafood, the Countryside Shops and the Spectrum Puppets on St. Nicholas Day and light up with the spirit of this holiday season on Saturday from 3-7 p.m., at the Virginia Beach Farmer's Market, 5540 Dame Neck Rd. Bring the kids to sit on "Santa Claus'" lap and receive a free Christmas tree seedling. Visit each merchant's shop to see if St. Nick left a lump of coal or a treat in their displayed shoes. Also, look for the Spectrum Puppets marionettes featuring holiday traditions from around the world and take a lighted hayride pulled by the 1993 and '94 National Champion Mule Team — "Jack and Pearl." Puppet making workshops and other activities will be happening throughout the day. All net proceeds benefit the Children's Performance Workshops against child abuse. For more information, call the Farmer's Market, 427-4395.

Pet pics with Santa

Weber's Pet Supermarket is sponsoring Pet Pictures with Santa Claus on Saturday, Dec. 13 from noon to 3 p.m. at their Lynnhaven store located at 2700 Avenger Trail (across from Toys R Us at Lynnhaven Mall) and Sunday, Dec. 14, same time, at the Fairfield store located at Fairfield Shopping Center. All proceeds from the pictures will go to support the local 4-H/Guiding Eyes for the Blind Puppy Raising Program. If you need additional information, call the 4-H Office at 427-4769 or Weber's Pet Supermarket, 340-4133.

Lighthouse lit

The Old Cape Henry Lighthouse will be illuminated from 5 to 9 p.m. beginning Dec. 5 through Jan. 5. The lighthouse is owned and operated by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA). It is officially closed to visitors for the season. The public can view the illuminated historical landmark during the holiday season. Visitors are requested to remain on Atlantic Avenue, the main road through Fort Story. Visitors should be prepared to show a driver's license upon entrance to Fort Story. Parking is available at the lighthouse and at the Cape Henry Memorial cross site. For additional information, contact the Fort Story public affairs office, 422-7755, or the military police, 422-7141.

Queen Jean

A holiday celebration for the whole family presented by Jean Widicks and Company and featuring the famous opera star Feathery Lills, Norman's Bait and Tackle Choir, The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Runner Up, Miss Spider's Christmas Tea Party and Famous Magician Whodunit with our very special guest star, Santa Claus, will be held at the Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd. on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Call 437-6450 to register. Registration ends Dec. 5.

Rabies clinic

A reduced-cost rabies vaccination clinic for dogs and cats will be held on Sunday, Dr. Tom Wood of Salem Road Veterinary Hospital will team with volunteers from Tidewater Humane Clinic, to be held at Pembroke Bingo Hall at 4815 Virginia Beach Blvd., from 1 to 4 p.m. All cats and dogs over the age of 4 months must be vaccinated against rabies per state law. To obtain a three-year vaccination, pet owners should bring a current rabies certificate (the rabies tag is not proof — pet owners must have the written rabies certificate). Spay/neuter certificates will also be available the day of the clinic and animal licenses for the city of Virginia Beach will also be available for sale. For further information, contact Tidewater Humane, 497-7729 ext. 10 or 14.

Jaycees gala

The Virginia Beach Jaycees will hold its Fifth Annual New Year's Gala on Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. This black tie-optimal event will be held at the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia located at 2300 Park Ave. Tickets are \$35 per person and include music, dancing, hor d'oeuvres, refreshments, party favors, midnight toast and a cash bar. The reservation deadline is Dec. 20. For tickets and more information, contact Karen, 498-1194.

Dazzling holiday

The Christian Women's Club of Virginia Beach West will hold a "Dazzling Holiday" brunch on Monday, Dec. 8 at Grand Affairs, 2036 East Pleasure House Rd. at 10:45 a.m. Gifts galore will be given to guests by the executive committee. The speaker, Nancy Ricor of Salisbury, Md., will bring "Words of Good Cheer" as she shares how to have peace through all circumstances. Cost is \$8.95 inclusive with a complimentary nursery for preschoolers. Brunch and nursery reservations are necessary. Call Lori, 721-4156, or Virginia, 424-8112, by Dec. 5.

Quality becomes watchword of new development strategy

Planning director proposes property purchase fund

By Lee Cahill
City Council Reporter

Planning Director Robert Scott has proposed a strategy that would give City Council more control over how the city will look with emphasis on quality.

Scott, at a council briefing Tuesday, said that while the new Comprehensive Plan stresses quality development, council needs the tools to accomplish this.

His proposal is to set up a fund which would be used to purchase property which, in turn, would be sold to private investors with the caveat that certain guidelines would be followed.

A revolving account could be set up, he said, from the sale of excess city property, the sales of rights-of-way no

longer needed by the city, revenues from leased property where the funds are not earmarked for another use, and the resale of property which has been acquired.

Council will decide at a future council meeting whether to incorporate the program in the city's plans. While reception of the idea was generally favorable.

Councilwoman Reba McClanahan expressed some concerns. She said she appreciated the Planning Department's efforts but said that "until we know what our standards are," the program may not be successful.

She said that she was concerned about putting the cart before the horse. She said that some good things are going on in the city, but the results are spotted.

She said that what happened in the Princess Anne corridor was a "tragedy." She was talking about the part of the road that had been widened, including the portion by Tidewater Community College, to the Municipal Center. She mentioned the big boxy stores like Target and the lack of consistency along the highway — some of the developers have used plantings, others have not.

"It's just hodge-podge," McClanahan said.

She said that the city has limited curb cuts on the road, but that have been no benefit because development has gone on the same old way.

McClanahan was especially concerned about the want of expertise on the city staff which does not have a landscape architect and is technically limited. She said that the city arborist, Roger Huff, and Edward Barnes, head of land services, have both been assigned to roads, which leaves the Planning Department with no

specialists in the field. She criticized the construction of a guard rail along the Lessner Bridge which blocks one of the city's most beautiful views.

"If we do these things we have to have people on staff trained to do the planning," McClanahan said.

She also questioned the government's getting into the real estate business. The cost of land is so high already, she said, and having the government interested in the land may cause the prices to escalate even more.

McClanahan said she is convinced that the private interests want the city to be beautiful.

Scott said that the private sector usually supports the city's efforts to attain quality but that this is not always the case.

McClanahan said that the city has to be careful also, that people don't interpret

See QUALITY, Page 4

State, local money sought for Rudee Inlet overhaul

By Lee Cahill
City Council Reporter

Rudee Inlet hasn't been the city's jewel in the crown exactly, not after several instances in which Virginia Beach found itself the defendant in suits where the city was charged with not keeping the inlet navigable to the distress of boat owners.

Forces are at work to change that, but it will cost.

Philip Roehrs, coastal engineer with the Public Works Department, following up on an Aug. 25 study by Langley and McDonald on Rudee Inlet Maintenance Dredging Alternatives, at a City Council workshop Tuesday recommended measures the city can take to keep Rudee Inlet open.

Foremost among them is the addition of nine personnel to the crew of Rudee Inlet II, the city's dredge, to the present staff of 12. The additional personnel will give the city the capacity to have the dredge available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Roehrs asked that the city appropriate from the contingency or surplus funds enough to pay for one-third of the projected salary costs for the new employees during the current fiscal year so that the new people could be brought aboard in March. The annual cost for the additional staff is \$218,000 in salaries and benefits and \$92,000 in support costs for a total of \$310,000.

Council instructed the staff to return at next Tuesday's council meeting with an ordinance adding the nine employees and the necessary appropriation for the third of the current fiscal year starting in March.

However using the additional personnel in other service areas during non-dredging periods is estimated to provide a savings of more than \$90,000. Another \$18,000 will be needed for a training program.

The Langley McDonald study recommended six additional people and also a training program. Roehrs said that the study consultants felt that six additional personnel would address the need, but the staff disagreed because of the weather factor.

See STATE, Page 4

Land House holidays offer yuletide peek into the past

Historic home offers seasonal celebrations

By Victoria Hecht
Editor

The historic Francis Land House will host two distinctly different celebrations this holiday season, offering visitors a glimpse into 18th-century Christmas customs.

The first, "Plantation Christmas," is set for Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. when costumed interpreters guide guests back through time. The house will be decked in period splendor by the Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach.

Musical entertainment will be provided by folk artist Martha Wallace from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and the Woodwind Quintet of the U.S. Continental Army Band from Fort Monroe will perform from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served by the Friends of the Francis Land House. Admission is free.

"Our 'Plantation Christmas' is more of a casual affair," said

SHALL WE DANCE? The Williamsburg Heritage Dancers will perform at the Land House's Twelfth Night celebration.

museum education specialist Vicki R. Harvey, "because our big holiday program is the Twelfth Night program. It's become a tradition for many homes in Virginia Beach."

Though Harvey estimates the house was not built until 1770 to 1780 by later generations of the

family, this season's festivities will be reminiscent of those typical in 1750.

In those days, festivities began Christmas Eve when the yule log was brought into the home. It burned throughout the season, with a small piece of it saved until the next Christmas to kindle that year's fire.

"Christmas Day was really a very religious day, not the way we think of it today. We get up, have a Christmas tree and then open gifts. It was strictly a day for religion, going to church or having services on the plantation," Harvey said.

Twelfth Night — Jan. 5 — was another matter.

"They began thinking about the Twelfth Night celebrations well in advance. If they were going to make their traditional Twelfth Night cake, they would have had to make sure they had the ingredients. They were thinking of the harvest, bringing everything into storage for the winter ahead."

See LAND, Page 4



MAKING MUSIC. Colonial musicians add to the holiday festivities.

Plan for Bayfront recommended

By Lee Cahill
City Council Reporter

Planning Director Robert Scott has recommended that the city fund the creation of a plan for the upgrading of the Bayfront/Shore Drive corridor along the Chesapeake Bay.

In a report to city council at a recent work session, Scott recommended that the Capital Improvement Program include plans for aesthetic features for Shore Drive from 83rd Street to Diamond Springs Road. He also suggested that council develop guidelines, review zoning, and appoint a business advisory committee.

The recommendations came in response to an evaluation made by the Washington, D.C.-based Urban Land Institute (ULI) of the area's potential and a strategy for its enhancement and

development which came out in May.

Scott said that the advisory group can be similar to the Resort Area Advisory Council (RAAC) for the oceanfront, or an extension of RAAC. Or it can be set up like the Community Development Advisory Committee or take on a New England-type meeting concept.

The ULI study was the first view of the area from the outside, Scott said, and they were impressed with the area but could find no unified identity.

Scott said the area is first a residential community with commercial and resort access, Scott said, and "I hope we don't forget that."

The study group found that the commercial zoning in the area was permissive and allowed people to do things above and beyond the character of

the area and that this needed to be looked at carefully. The visitors also concluded that high quality development should be encouraged around the Lessner Bridge where a spoil site is in contention for future development.

They were impressed with the bike path and saw the corridor as extending from the First Landing State park at one end to the Bayview Farms Park at the other end.

Among initiatives suggested were:

To establish a sense of arrival at the U.S. Highway 13/Shore Drive intersection and at the Lessner Bridge to create important gateways and an identity for the scenic drive.

Fisherman's Park to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment around the Lynnhaven Inlet.

Scott supported ULI's suggested action plan of creating an advisory commission, initiating a demonstration project and developing a landscaping plan.

He said design criteria should be developed and zoning should be reviewed.

Before seeking public/private funding or developing public beach funding, he said, the city should get straight what it wants to accomplish first. He said the city should put off for the present the recommendations by ULI of developing a beach acquisition policy and implementation plan and developing Watermen's Walk, Fisherman's Park and Marina Village.

Commentary

WINTER PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Surviving nature's fury

Last year Virginia was lucky. This year it might not be so fortunate. Consider the winter of 1995-96, a record setter by Virginia standards and a disaster to hapless travelers, power company employees and the thousands left without electricity.

Eighteen people died during one early January storm, and many Virginians were stranded at home for days. Snowplows worked around the clock to clear roads. That February, ice storms turned eastern Virginia, notably Hampton Roads, into a huge skating rink that caused scores of traffic accidents, extensive power outages and downed trees.

Those memories should serve to prepare us for what Mother Nature sends our way this winter. The best advice during Winter Preparedness Week: Plan ahead.

The Virginia Department of Emergency Services urges residents to take time now to understand winter hazards and prepare for these dangers:

At home

- Stock an emergency supply of water and non-perishable food.
- Keep an adequate supply of fuel in your home. Have an alternative heat source such as a wood stove, fireplace or space heater in case you lose power.
- Make sure you have a flashlight, battery-powered radio, extra batteries, first aid kit and extra prescription medications that you might need.
- To keep water pipes from freezing, wrap them in insulation. During sustained cold periods, let each faucet drip a little to avoid freezing.

For the road

■ Be sure that your car is in good running order. Have a mechanic check your battery, antifreeze, wipers, ignition and thermostat. Good tires are very important.

■ Keep basic items in your car such as a windshield scraper, battery jumper cables, tow chain or rope, bag of sand, flashlight, first aid kit, road map and some non-perishable food.

■ If the roads are treacherous due to ice or snow, stay at home unless you absolutely have to get out.

■ If you are caught on the road during a winter storm and unable to continue, stay in the car. Don't seek shelter or a telephone unless you see one close by. For heat, turn on the car engine for brief periods.

Avoiding overexertion and overexposure

■ To prevent hypothermia, dress warmly, both during the day and while sleeping. Several layers of lightweight clothing or blankets are better than a single, heavy layer. Be sure to wear a hat when going outside since nearly half the body's heat is lost through the head.

■ Check on elderly neighbors and relatives. The elderly are especially susceptible to hypothermia — even inside their homes. Icy and slippery surfaces can cause dangerous falls.

Finally, since we can't prevent bad winter weather, the best alternative for a safer winter is to simply be prepared. Stay especially aware of watches and warnings, should winter's fury flair again. — V.E.H.

SEASONAL SHOPPING SAFETY

Use your smarts

Stores and malls are a mecca to holiday shoppers. But they're not the only ones lured by the hustle and bustle and promise of bargains. The holidays are especially lucrative for thieves ready to prey on preoccupied shoppers.

Local police departments offer some simple tips for a safer shopping season:

■ Park in well lit areas and as close as possible to the store or mall entrance.

■ Do not flash cash; use checks or credit cards.

■ Ladies should put identification, money and credit cards in a pocket rather than carrying a purse.

■ Shop at locations where security is provided.

■ While shopping, make frequent trips to the car so you won't have to carry a large number of packages. Store bags in the trunk out of view of passersby.

■ When leaving or returning to your car, try to walk with others. There is safety in numbers.

■ Be alert. If you feel you are being followed, go directly to a police officer or security officer or into the nearest store. — V.E.H.



Being Santa Claus is a lot more complicated than it used to be.

When Congress authorized a 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal for Pearl Harbor survivors, my father was no longer living. I accepted the bronze medallion on his behalf.

During the first week of December, I've gotten into the habit of taking the medal from its presentation case and examining both sides. On one side of the silver dollar-sized

token, a battleship is depicted in relief along with the words "Remember Pearl Harbor" and "December 7, 1941." On the converse side of the medal, there is an embossed eagle with the words "For those who served" and "a date which will live in infamy."

When the Territory of Hawaii exploded onto the pages of history in December 1941, my father was there. He saw the torpedo planes, dive bombers and horizontal bombers as they pressed the attack on Battleship Row. He heard the exploding bombs, and he smelled the smoke from the burning wreckage at Hickam Field.

And worst of all, he witnessed the deaths of over a thousand of his former shipmates on the U.S.S. Arizona.

After taking hits from several torpedoes and bombs, the battleship was hit near her number two turret with a bomb that exploded her forward magazine with a force so potent that it literally lifted the dreadnaught and broke her in half.

The ship sank so quickly that she did not have time to roll over on her side.

That sight must've been devastating for my father to witness the oil-filled fires burning the Arizona. If it scared him for life, I never saw any indication of it. And I never asked him about it either.

When he spoke of the Arizona, there was a gleam in his eyes and pride in his voice.

"She was a wonderful ship. There's nothing like a battleship," he'd insist. "I sailed with Captain Kidd," he'd boast.

But he never mentioned witnessing the destruction of the Arizona.

Although I always wondered how he felt when he saw his ship and 1,000 former shipmates go up in fire and smoke, I could never bring myself to ask him. I realized that it was far too sensitive a subject to broach when I made a comment about the "United States winning World War II."

My father turned toward me, placed his hand firmly on my shoulder, and looked directly into my eyes. After a pause that seemed to last for an hour, he said, "Son, no one wins a war." After another poignant pause, he added, "Some are lucky enough to survive, though."

When a U.S.S. Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor was first proposed, my father took an immediate interest.

He was actively involved in the efforts to raise funds for the project and seemed enormously pleased to see the memorial dedicated in 1962.

On Jan. 16, 1936, my father first reported for duty aboard the U.S.S. Arizona while she was dry-docked at the Puget Sound Navy Yard.

For well over five years, my father sailed aboard the dreadnaught from Puget Sound to San Francisco, Bremerton to Sasebo, Pedro, and Long Beach to Pearl Harbor. Wherever the Arizona went, he went too. Until 8 September 1941, the Arizona was my father's home and his shipmates were his family.

On Sept. 8, 1941, his enlistment was up, and he was discharged. The following day, he re-enlisted and reported for duty aboard the U.S.S. Rigel at Pearl Harbor. It was from the relative safety of that repair ship that he witnessed the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Three months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, my father was transferred from a prime target to a safe haven. Some people get their "luck" buttressed."

Today, the Arizona and her crew rest at the bottom of Pearl Harbor. Perhaps, they rest in peace, and conceivably, the presence of the memorial overhead might provide some solace to any restless spirits. More significantly, perhaps, the memorial might serve as an admonition to the living that while some are lucky enough to survive a war, many others do — in fact — die.

"Whenever I remember Pearl Harbor," I always recall my father's simple, touching observation: "No one wins a war."

All is not happy in the 'Real World'

For the benefit of those who have yet to figure it out, "The Real World" column is not one of those "I'd like to teach the world to sing" jingles. Sure, it's nice to see the world through rose-colored glasses, but that is just not "The Real World" — regardless of what the Pollyannas would have you believe.

There are some who feel that the critic is the meanest person on earth," yet if the world had not been so sinful and critics had been more abundant, then perhaps Jesus would not have had to die for our sins.

If there had been more critics in Germany, 6 million Jews and millions of others would not have died during World War II.

I remember there was no critics when Italy attacked little, helpless Ethiopia, murdering men, women and children by the thousands. The American critics were silent then. Someone has to point out the fact that the world is not "singing in perfect harmony." Some say "Why complain, we are not at war and Americans are not being killed?" The hell we're not.

A little rinky dink, second rate country called Iraq, with an insane dictator named Saddam Hussein, has been at war with America for years and has made a fool out of George Bush and that great military strategist, Bill Clinton. I don't guess the deaths in Bosnia are considered by those who say "we are at peace."

Some say that the economy is good, so why complain? If you are willing to be led by a leader with the morals of an alley cat and a corrupt Congress, then I don't guess it matters. If you are satisfied that little children are not allowed to express their faith in God in public schools, then I guess the economy is more important and critics should be silent.

Some fine columnists write about flowers, poetry, food, art and all the good things of life. That is nice, but all is not well with the world as long as people go hungry, homeless, jobless, discriminated against, both black and white, and when children have nowhere to go when they are sick.

All is not well in America when we continue to elect corrupt politicians because they "bring home the bacon." All is not well in America when the one-sided, liberal news media continues to sell their socialistic views and when victims of crime are treated as if they were the criminal and courts are turned upside down.

Finally, all is not well in America when a draft dodger can become commander of all the armed forces. I pray that some day I won't have to write about anything but flowers, food, poetry and all the other good things in life, but until then "Welcome to the Real World."

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Ho, ho, ho... off to shopping we go

'Twas the day after Thanksgiving, And the cupboard was bare. All the turkey was eaten, But we didn't care. The dishes were clean,

The trash can was dumped, No worries, no worries. Except we wouldn't plump.

Gorged with calories, cholesterol and pie, No bothers, no plans, Except for Christmas shopping?

As if digesting a week's worth of food in one meal weren't enough, I was awake Friday with the realizations that: 1) I had to go to work and, 2) the stores were beckoning me with an intensity akin to no normal shopping spree.

I fought the urge all day, but when the clock hit 5 p.m. I was a goner.

I'd been preparing for the Christmas shop-a-rama several days. The mailbox had already been stuffed with filters that I'd dutifully accumulated. And the newspaper? Stuffed with sales sheets, it offered a bounty of shopping ideas.

I hit the stores armed with my checkbook, sales sheets and calculator. Unfortunately, I forgot to wear sensible shoes. Big mistake.

The first shopping trip led me to Wal-Mart, a store I became infatuated with while in college. This was before the chain moved into Hampton Roads, and I took every opportunity to check out the bargains.

When leaving or returning to your car, try to walk with others. There is safety in numbers.

Be alert. If you feel you are being followed, go directly to a police officer or security officer or into the nearest store. — V.E.H.

always puzzled me. Why do people spend 30 minutes driving around to save 50 steps, then go into the store and walk around for hours on end.

Once inside, I grabbed a cart and headed for the cosmetics/toiletries department, where I stocked up on beauty baskets for gal pals. I also struck up a good conversation with the woman running the department, who confessed to a similar affinity for cosmetics. They are my downfall.

Next stop: Belk. It's my second downfall. Again, I fell in love with the chain while in North Carolina. In fact, they issued me my very first store credit card. I am still a proud card holder — and spender.

Mom says those Belk people, being a North Carolina chain (and the fact that she is Carolinian), know how to treat a customer. I wholeheartedly agree. After a spending spree of mammoth proportions, they cheerfully wrapped all my gifts, then carried them to my car. Now that's service!

The spree, of course, didn't end there. But the scary part is that, who knows how many dollars later, my shopping list is only half complete. There are still family members,

shopping sprees this weekend. I'm hoping to make a big dent in that Christmas list, if it doesn't break my checkbook first!

Consumer Affairs is on buyer's side

Have you ever wondered who to call if you think you've been ripped off? Or who to call if you have a dispute with a company you work for?

The Mayor's Report
Mayor Meyera Oberndorf



The Attorney General's Office. Their objective is to improve the marketplace in Virginia Beach through law enforcement, consumer/merchant education, promotion of legitimate business practices, and research.

The Consumer Affairs Division's most important function is the enforcement of consumer protection laws. They investigate and mediate complaints against businesses in Virginia Beach, home improvement companies, and door-to-door sales.

When a consumer initially calls with a complaint concerning a matter within the CAD's jurisdiction, they encourage the consumer to seek resolution with the business. The division may have a contact name for that business, which if the consumer calls would result in a prompt resolution. If the matter constitutes an alleged violation of law or the consumer has attempted to resolve the matter with management to no avail, a complaint form is sent. The CAD receives 1,500 to 1,800 written requests for investigations/mediations each year.

The complaint form should be returned with copies of all supporting documents. After review, appropriate action is initiated. Depending on the circumstances, a letter and a copy of the complaint may be sent to the business for review and response, the company may be contacted by phone by an investigator, or the investigator may have to get all the parties together at the site. Sometimes a preliminary investigation is necessary to locate witnesses, evidence or owners of closed businesses. On occasion, undercover work is necessary.

Most businesses are cooperative and are anxious to resolve consumer complaints. In previous years, the Consumer Affairs Division has resolved complaints resulting in savings up to almost half a million dollars each year for consumers. However, sometimes legal action becomes necessary.

The investigator conducts the investigation then prepares the case file. Usually, the case is prosecuted by the Commonwealth's Attorney who seeks corrective action, restitution for victims, investigative and attorney costs and civil penalties. In criminal cases, the defendant may also receive jail time. Some cases are also prosecuted by the City Attorney.

and the Attorney General. The CAD employees also work closely with other local, state, and federal agencies by providing information and assistance for cases they investigate. The Virginia Beach Consumer Affairs Division is the only Consumer Affairs office in the Commonwealth who has access to the Federal Trade Commission's Telemarketing Complaint System. That system provides valuable information on telemarketers.

The CAD is a member of various state and national organizations which provide information and training on numerous consumer issues as well as criminal activity. In addition, the CAD started the Multi-Agency Information Network, a local group of various agencies in the Hampton Roads area that meet quarterly to discuss common problems and solutions and share information concerning consumer fraud.

Another important function of the Consumer Affairs Division is consumer education. Education is the key to the prevention of consumer abuse. The CAD encourages people to check on a business and learn their rights and responsibilities before purchasing or signing a contract.

If the business is located in Virginia Beach, CAD employees can check the files to ascertain how many complaints have been filed and if they were resolved. If the company is not in Virginia Beach, CAD employees can provide information and phone numbers where consumers can obtain assistance.

The CAD also keeps consumers and merchants informed by preparing and distributing brochures on various topics, participating in group discussions, issuing press releases and conducting media interviews, giving presentations at various meetings and functions, and by answering 12,000 to 14,000 inquiries each year.

The CAD also has a website which provides information about the office, brochure list, complaint forms, product recalls, alerts, and consumer tips.

This year the CAD combined efforts with the City's Video Services Department to provide consumer information. Hazardous products recall and other consumer tips are listed on VBTC Channel 46, 24 hours a day. In addition, the two agencies produced news stories for "Newscast" and produced "Consumer Connections," a 30-minute program airing on VBTC Channel 48. "Consumer Connections" addresses various consumer issues such as landlord and tenant concerns and buying cars.

During National Consumers Week in October, the Video Services Department's work was recognized when they received the fourth annual Consumer Service Recognition Award at a ceremony and reception in their honor.

Many consumer problems can be avoided if you know your rights and responsibilities. To learn more, call the Consumer Affairs Division at 426-5836 or visit their web page at www.virginia-beach.va.us/cads/oca/cads.htm.

Cathy Townsend Parks, Consumer Affairs Division, contributed to this column.

Suspects sought in holiday thefts and bank robbery

With the holiday season here, shoplifting is a concern of all merchants. These thefts cost all of us at the checkout registers. Crime Solvers is offering up to a \$1,000 reward for the arrest of professional shoplifters.

In the past two weeks, a group of five men have targeted the Super K-Mart at 3901 Holland Rd. This video shows two of the men stealing three VCRs by walking out of an emergency door. The suspect is black, 28 to 32 years of age, 6-foot-1-inch tall, 210 pounds, with short hair and a mustache. He was wearing a baseball hat, a blue windbreaker with maroon and white stripes, baggy camouflage pants and brown work boots.

Crime Solvers will pay up to \$1,000 for information on this crime or any other crime. Call 427-0000 and as always, you will remain anonymous and will not have to appear in court.

Virginia Beach police also need your help in locating a bank robber.

On Saturday, Oct. 18 at 9:30 a.m., a man walked into the First Virginia



Crime Solvers

By Det. Lou Chappell, Virginia Beach Police Department

20s, with medium build, approximately 6-feet tall, possibly driving an older four-door, gray Pontiac.

Virginia Beach police also need your help in locating a bank robber.

On Saturday, Oct. 18 at 9:30 a.m., a man walked into the First Virginia

Up close and personal

Tim Beasley: Man of many faces

By Victoria Hecht
Editor

Tim Beasley jokes that his neighbors probably think he keeps pretty interesting company. With the likes of Charlie Chaplin, John Lennon, Elvis Presley and Humphrey Bogart leaving his house each day, they never know what star he'll be rubbing elbows with next.

What they really don't know is that Beasley, a celebrity impersonator, is the man—and the face—behind all of them.

The entertainment opportunities offered by a growing resort city helped lure the Roanoke native here in 1979.

It was the chance to pursue to a lifelong dream.

"Like any kid, I was smitten with television and anything that had a fun or musical theme—'Rowen and Martin's Laugh-In,' 'The Ed Sullivan Show,' 'The Tonight Show,' you name it," Beasley said.

His favorites were always the impersonators.

"I loved the humor and would always laugh. I was tickled that they could personify so many people, and I liked it because I knew that I could do it, too."

Beasley's philosophy has always been "all the world's a stage," and the classroom was no exception.

"I'd re-enact entire book reports," he remembered. "A lot of kids would shy away or turn weak in the knees at oral book reports. Not me! Teachers tended to have quite a sense of humor with me. If it was 'Moby Dick,' I'd be Captain Ahab on the deck striking a pose."

As he got older Beasley began entering jingle and slogan-writing contests, winning a few along the way. At 19, he became a father, though, and had to find the best-paying job available. That was in construction. Still, the dream of show business didn't end.

"On the weekends and into the wee hours of the night I was honing my art, practicing and performing. I was always writing skits and crafting my voice and manners. That was my true talent. So when I got the opportunity to move to the beach, I jumped at it. I knew the oceanfront was lively and that the lifestyle here was conducive to my kind of thinking."

Beasley became a familiar face in commercials ("I was always the guy next door — Mr. Everyday Neighbor," he said), which led to radio spots and live performances.

"I just found that I had a talent that was scarce in this area, a rare bird," he explained.

His repertoire has grown to include presidents Lincoln and Washington, George Patton, Jed Clampett, Johnny Carson and Clint Eastwood.

It's not just about looking like a celebrity, but having the attitude and mannerisms.

"I know the characters simply by being a fan. Everyone who is going to appreciate it is going to know why I do certain quirky little Clint Eastwood-ish things. They'll understand why he turns his head to one side when someone has a question. Eastwood has an attitude, and that attitude is what you have to present. People love that. It's really an illusion."

Beasley admits that he's been stumped just once — when asked to portray Gov. George Allen. He couldn't because Allen "hit too close to home," too much of the guy-next-door type.

Beasley, who operates Celebrity Stars in Virginia Beach, is often called upon as an emcee and master of ceremonies at area functions. He is also one half of the duo "Lennon and McCartney" with Great Bridge High School teacher Bill Staley.

He has been the comedy call-in voice on WLTY-FM, and is popular at local festivals as "Old Man Beasley," whom he describes as "a 100-year-old grandfather." His Elvis act is always a favorite, and he gets a kick out of playing "no name lounge lizard," a compilation of the worst in lounge acts.

"Entertainment is something I've always had a penchant for and done naturally. If you've got it naturally," Beasley explained, "you can sharpen it easily."

Braving high seas!

Bank located at 1924 Centerville Turnpike. The suspect loitered inside the bank for a few minutes, approached the teller and presented her with a note demanding money. After receiving a quantity of money he walked out of the bank.

The suspect is black, 28 to 32 years of age, 6-foot-1-inch tall, 210 pounds, with short hair and a mustache. He was wearing a baseball hat, a blue windbreaker with maroon and white stripes, baggy camouflage pants and brown work boots.

Crime Solvers will pay up to \$1,000 for information on this crime or any other crime. Call 427-0000 and as always, you will remain anonymous and will not have to appear in court.



Favorite restaurant: DaFazio's at Innsbrook (Richmond).

Favorite meal and beverage: I could put snow crabs on the endangered species list (love those legs) with steak, salad and a great beer.

What most people don't know about me: In my youth I narrowly escaped death several times, each in a completely different fashion. Of course, this has happened to everyone, but this strongly affected my everyday appreciation of life.

Best thing about myself: I'd say I've been blessed with a good sense of humor.

Worst habit: Too often a night owl.

Pets: Our cat, Pumpkin.

Hobbies: Collecting unusual stage props and costume pieces for my shows wherever I travel.

Ideal vacation: Taking an unlimited tour of England.

Pet peeves: Stores that never have the right prices on the merchandise and getting "over-zapped" with their price scanner. Revolt!

First job: Hawking soft drinks at a circus at 14 years old.

Worst job: Construction hell in my younger years.

Favorite sports team: I seldom watch any. Life's a sport!

Favorite musicians: Beach Boys, Beatles, Eagles and Rolling Stones.

Most embarrassing moment: I forgot to check the tide chart and got stuck in the low tide mud of the Lynnhaven River for a few hours.

How I would like to be remembered: I hope I'm remembered for putting smiles on faces that needed them, and my epitaph would say, "The Beez goes on!"

If I received \$1 million: I'd invest in classic Buick and T-Bird convertibles, complete my Beatles and Elvis collections, and with the rest secure the future against any family emergencies.

If I have 10 minutes on national television: I know it sounds crazy, but I'd like to host the last 10 minutes of the next Academy Awards! "...And the winner is..." à la Carson, Crystal or Letterman.



Land House holidays offer yuletide peek into past

Continued From Page 1

No Virginia table would have been complete without a ham, and the boat's head was served with great pageantry.

Throughout the season the home was decorated with evergreens and other natural finery, which would have been burned on Twelfth Night.

"That's when the big party took place and they literally took out all the greens and burned them in a big bonfire," Harvey said.

Gentry class families such as the Landes would surely have hosted a Twelfth Night party. Many were centered around romance or marriage.

"Lots of weddings happened on Twelfth Night," Harvey noted.

"Even George Washington was married on Twelfth Night. Our story this year will revolve around love and marriage in the 18th century. It's interesting to see the different ways marriage was approached, from a widowed woman who needs to find a husband right away, to a young girl whose suitor has come to ask her hand, to a member of the slave community looking forward to wed."

By taking these approaches, Harvey said, every element of

life on the plantation will be represented.

This year's Twelfth Night celebration will be held Tuesday, Jan. 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. Because of the event's growing popularity, admission will be by advance ticket sales only. Tickets are \$4 per person with tours every 15 minutes.

Visitors can partake in Twelfth Night cake and hot mulled cider while enjoying the Williamsburg Heritage Dancers. Music will be provided by Bob Clarke.

This Saturday the Francis Land House will present another seasonal offering, a unique 18th-century evening at the Virginia Beach Central Library.

"The sounds of angels" and the buffoonery of 18th-century comedy are an unlikely pairing when "Dean Shostak and the Glass Armonica" and "La Festival LaFoon with Lord Foppington and Company" perform at 7:30 p.m.

The glass armonica, invented by Benjamin Franklin in 1761, is the only musical instrument created by an American. It consists of tuned glass bowls mounted on a spindle. When



THROW ANOTHER LOG ON THE FIRE. A yule log, that is. The burning of the yule log helped kindle the holiday spirit in colonial homes.



BASKING IN THE GLOW. The lighted Francis Land House beckons visitors inside for holiday gatherings this Christmas.

HAMPTON ROADS ON THE MOVE

Take control of your holiday spending

By Leah-Beth Williams
Financial Counselor

The stores are in gear and ready for the holiday spenders. Before you start to shop, take stock of how much money you have available for holiday spending.

Ideally, you have planned and budgeted for the holidays all year long. If you started in January by developing a budget, figuring out how much you want to save and setting aside money each month, then you are ready to make a list and shop.

For most of us this ideal plan that started in January is not a reality when the decorating begins. We know what we need to spend, but not from where the money will come. This is the seasonal strain on our finances.

You can avoid stress and strain by following a few tips from Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Tidewater:

■ Make a list with an amount that you can afford beside each name. Write some examples of gift ideas also. Take this list

when you shop and write down what is purchased so there are no duplicates. Be sure that the total spending amount on your list fits in with your budget. Make any necessary adjustments before you shop.

■ Take advantage of seasonal bargains. Many stores begin their end of the year sales during the holidays, so be alert for store specials and sales.

■ Don't forget the hidden costs of Christmas. The tree, decorations, cards, wrapping paper, entertainment and travel are expenses we easily forget.

■ Shop by catalog. Many find that shopping by catalog helps them stick to the budget better because there aren't as many choices. The added advantage is you miss the crowds and you save on travel expenses. Make sure you are dealing with a reputable firm that can deliver your order on time.

■ Bargain wisely. Credit cards and holiday loans are frequently used to make up for the lack of holiday cash. Both allow you to pay back over time, but with interest. Remember to budget for your payments whether it's a credit card or a loan.

■ "Moonlight" or working overtime. Taking a part time job for a couple of months to pay for the holidays is a great idea and a great way to earn extra money. Even better is to work a little extra throughout the year and save the extra money for the holiday.

■ Taking control of your holiday spending helps you avoid seasonal stress and leaves you free to enjoy this time of the year with your friends and family.

If you are financially strained by holiday spending, call CCCS of Tidewater, a confidential United Way service, at 562-3306 or 312-9122 in Chesapeake.

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Continued From Page 1

don't interpret the program as one for the benefit of council members' friends.

In answer to a question from councilman Louis R. Jones, Scott said that the department will identify general areas, but would like to react before it's too late. He said the department wanted to provide council with the tools to use "as you see fit."

Jones also asked Scott to bring back to Council what types of uses would be considered for the property.

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When Councilwoman Barbara Henley said that some parcels might be very expensive, city manager James K. Spore said that there may be "some price you may decide you don't want to spend the money on."

Henley summarized that the criteria should be established and the cases brought to council on a case-by-case basis.

Councilman Harold Heischober said that he thought the strategy was excellent. He said the city would have a solid policy and would be dealing with willing sellers. But, he added, we can't set up a program "where we do the whole city at one time. If we really want quality, this is one of the best strategies I've seen in a long while."

Councilwoman Nancy Parker asked how the city can insure that the sellers don't come forth threatening the city with a less desirable use of the property if the city does not buy.

"In many cases where you have heard this threat, so has the neighborhood," Scott said. He said the staff would try to get the neighbors involved. He said that Parker's concern was the first to come to mind. He said the city hears the same thing repeatedly in rezoning. "We have a good sense of when something is a legitimate threat." He said that the city would stay away from activities that are not in the public interest.

McClan said that the McDonalds across from the

Municipal Center is "a good example of not using the control we have."

Mayor Meyera Oberndorf said that what the staff wants from council is criteria and a decision on purchasing the property.

Spore said that it was important to watch out for the city's interests in areas of greater investment and not in just any area

where the zoning is not liked. Oberndorf said that some neighborhoods will feel neglected.

Scott said that the staff needs to come back with an ordinance to establish the fund, lay out criteria to be used by council and target investment areas where the city has invested money. Otherwise the fund would be soon exhausted.

State, local money sought for Rudee Inlet overhaul

Continued From Page 1

Also recommended is the inclusion in the capital improvement budget of a second tender vessel at a cost of \$45,000, a tracked bulldozer at a cost of \$97,000, and a suitable velocity meter for the Rudee Inlet II, which will cost about \$25,000.

According to staff, the operation would be streamlined by using two tenders to move the dredge and the floating pipelines into position, increasing productive time on station during the shift.

Langley McDonald recommended a swing compass and slurry velocity meter for the existing dredge, but the staff found that the \$39,500 compass recommended by the manufacturer is prone to malfunction and are felt by most contractors and the U.S. Corps of Engineers to be unreliable.

Other issues involve a possible reconfiguration of the inlet and jetty system and berthing and shoreline improvements at Croatan Point. In its 1998 legislative package the city will be requesting the state for \$630,000 for a study which will bring the city through the preliminary design and permitting stages.

Roehrs said that the shoreline at Rudee Inlet is not very attractive or conducive to moving the dredge.

The maintenance of the inlet is shared by the city and the U.S. Corps of Engineers with the city contributing approximately \$250,000 a year toward the annual project or 49 percent of the total cost.

In 1997, the city was assisted by the Corps in another way. The Norfolk District Corps has

with the Wilmington District for the Currituck to stop at Rudee Inlet on its way to Barnegat Inlet in New Jersey. The Currituck is a self-propelled hopper dredge specifically configured to dredge small ocean inlets and dredged sand on adjacent beaches.

A third visit here is scheduled for mid-December, but the Norfolk District and the city are looking into an agreement to have the Currituck stop here as many as four times a year as she travels to Barnegat Inlet.

This dredging will minimize the need for contract dredging by the city or the Corps. The cost of using the Currituck in 1997 was \$7,800 including transit time. The four visits would cost \$28,800 with the city paying 49 percent and the Corps 51 percent.

Although a May 6, 1996 report provides detailed legal considerations, since then laws resulting from groundings in Rudee Inlet have underscored the need to address the city's capability to maintain the inlet.

Roehrs said the staff also is pursuing weir replacement but the ultimate redesign may not include a weir.

That council will accept the staff's recommendations, or most of them, is almost certain because the city wants to maintain the position of Virginia Beach as the premier east coast sportfishing center.

Also boat trips conducted by the Virginia Marine Science Museum use the inlet and are responsible for more fares than any other passenger activity operating out of Rudee Inlet. The greatest obstacle has been a demand for channel

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Toys for Tots gives gift of music to community

As part of "Our Christmas Gift To The Community," a Toys for Tots Concert Series will be held Dec. 8, 14 and 21 at The Founders Inn and Conference Center in Virginia Beach. Admission to each concert is free with a donation of a new unwrapped toy to benefit Toys for Tots.

Tickets for the concerts may be picked up in advance at The Founders Inn from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Dec. 20 and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis with a six-ticket limit. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

The first concert is Monday, Dec. 8 with songwriter and worship leader Ron Kenoly. Kenoly seeks to cross cultures, oceans and denominations to minister the gospel in song. Kenoly began singing in children's choir when he was a boy in Kansas and eventually married, moved to California and Multi-award winning country singer and recording artist Ricky

Skaggs will perform Sunday, Dec. 14. He will sing selections from his latest album, "Bluegrass Rules," his first record on his own label. Skaggs will give Christmas songs a bluegrass twist.

On Sunday, Dec. 21, Dove-award winning brother-and-sisters trio The Martins will perform from their first holiday album, "Light of the World," on Spring Hill record.

The Martins are Joyce Martin McCollough, Jonathan Martin and Judy Martin Hess. Their performance will include classic hymns and traditional Christmas carols, as well as a compilation of original Christmas tunes.

"The Founders Inn/Toys for Tots Christmas: Our Gift to The Community" is part of a 17-week Christmas campaign to support the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots 50th anniversary.

Call the Concert Series Hotline at 579-3547 for more information.

Lynnhaven House decks the halls for holiday visitors

Prepare for Christmas by coming to the historic Lynnhaven House Christmas Open House on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Do you love the fragrance of fresh greenery, intermingled with the smell of good food and a fire in the open hearth with a background of young happy voices raised in song? Then come and celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season.

Join in the celebration of a Colonial Christmas at the Lynnhaven House residence in 18th century greenery, with 18th-

century costumed docents and madrigal singers from Princess Anne High School. There will be no cost for this delightful experience. Oh yes, there will be hot spiced cider, fancy breads and cookies for sale as well as the opportunity for purchasing special Colonial Christmas gifts.

The Lynnhaven House is located at 4405 Wishart Rd. near the junction of Haygood Road and Independence Boulevard, near Haygood Shopping Center. For more information, call 456-0351.

Colonial Dames tour home

The local chapter, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century (CDXVII), will tour the Hunter House Victorian Museum, 240 W. Freemason St. in Norfolk on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 10:45 a.m.

The historic home will be decorated for Christmas in the Victorian style. A guide will conduct the tour, telling the ladies the background of the house and family owners, as well as describing the collection of

antiques, which is entirely original. The Dames will see games, toys and furnishings which reflect the late 18th century.

After a visit to the gift shop, the ladies will walk to the Hotel Madison for lunch. Reservations are necessary. For information, one may call Rosemary Stout, a docent at the Hunter House and also a member of the CDXVII. Her telephone number is 623-9814.

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For reservations call: 1-800-247-2446.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Business

The Central Business District Association will host their annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction Holiday Luncheon in December, with musical entertainment provided by Walter Noona. The luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 19 at the Clarion Hotel-Pembroke Corporate Center, 4453 Bonney Road, Virginia Beach. The cost of the luncheon is \$15.50 for members and \$20.50 for non-members. Reservations are required and will be accepted through Monday, Dec. 15. For further information, call 490-7812.

Civic

City Councilmember Louisa Styphany (Kempville Borough)

will host a monthly town meeting at Tallwood High School, 1668 Kempville Road, from 7:9 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17. This month's topic of discussion: "Mount Trashmore Park Master Plan... Another 25 Years." Guest speakers include Barry Frankenfeld, Department of Parks and Recreation and Karl Smithson, Department of Public Works, engineering.

Clubs

The Larkspur Park Garden Club will entertain at a tea on Friday, Dec. 5 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Orchid, 811 Cavalier Dr. Flower arrangements and decorations will be made by members of the Larkspur Park Garden Club and will be graded by Wayne Jones.

The Francis Land Chapter will honor its DAR Good Citizens on Saturday, Dec. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Virginia Beach Central Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Blvd. in meeting room A directly across from the theater. The honorable Dr. G. William Whitehurst will be the guest speaker on "A Patriots Plan for the Future." Whitehurst is a retired congressman, author, political analyst and active at Old Dominion University. The DAR Good Citizen winners are Tallwood High School, Jeremy McLean;

Point O'View Elementary's winter program, "Five Golden Rings," will be held in the school cafeteria at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15. The fourth and fifth grade chorus will be presenting an adaptation of the familiar Christmas tune, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Bayside High School, Crystal Canini Davis; and Salem High School, Veronica Salcedo. For more information, call MaryAnne Nixon, 428-4277.

The Lynnhaven Parish Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will hold its Christmas luncheon at the Brody Bay Country Club, 2120 Lorde Landing, Virginia Beach, on Saturday, Dec. 31 at noon. State Chairman of the Virginia DAR's Speakers Staff, Diane Swart of Leesburg will present a holiday program on "The Holly, The Ivy and The Hyams." Members are reminded to bring unwrapped gifts for veteran patients. For further information, call the Vice Regent Mary Vose, 499-7295.

Education

Woodstock Elementary School presents more than 100 second-grade "dinosaurs" in its holiday production, "A Prehistoric Christmas." The show will be presented on Friday, Dec. 5 at 9:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. and on Monday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Because of upcoming scheduling conflicts the Real Estate Branch sponsored by Virginia Beach School and originally scheduled for Dec. 3 at the Ramada Plaza Resort has been postponed until Jan. 27.

Bayside Elementary School will celebrate the holiday season with a program on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium. The fifth grade classes will present "A Storybook Christmas. Parents will also be entertained by the fourth and fifth grade choruses and the faculty chorus. The program will be repeated on Dec. 17 at 9:45 a.m. for the students' enjoyment.

Point O'View Elementary's winter program, "Five Golden Rings," will be held in the school cafeteria at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15. The fourth and fifth grade chorus will be presenting an adaptation of the familiar Christmas tune, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Centerville Elementary School will hold its PTA Holiday Breakfast with Santa and Santa's Secret Shop in the school cafeteria on Saturday, Dec. 6. Pancakes, sausage, juice, milk and coffee will be served for \$3 (adults) and \$1.75 (students).

Recreation

It's time for Midnight Madness

Basketball at Bow Creek Recreation Center. Play on Friday, Dec. 12 from 11 p.m.-7 a.m. A safe, supervised environment will be provided for teens at this all-night basketball event. It includes tournaments, round robins, free throw and slam dunk contest. Refreshments will be served. Doors will be locked from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. For ages 12-17, cost is \$2, plus membership card or day pass.

Center for Sacred Music plans 'A Holiday Gala'

The Center for Sacred Music at Virginia Wesleyan College will present "A Holiday Gala" at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 8 in Hofheimer Theater on the campus.

The concert will feature the center's four performance groups: Schola Cantorum under the direction of David Clayton, the Virginia Wesleyan Community Chorus under the direction of Rodger Schoonover and the Virginia Wesleyan Children's Chorus and Young Women at Wesleyan, both under the direction of Karen Gossler.

The choruses will present

separate numbers as well as combined pieces, and will be accompanied by pianists Deborah Reed, Vanessa Siglar and George Stone; Barbara Chapman on harp; Roy Ruth on trumpet; and the Bayside Presbyterian Handbell Choir. The audience will be invited to join in singing familiar carols and for the final number, the choruses will be joined by the Virginia Wesleyan College Choir and sing Gustav Holst's "Christmas Day."

Tickets are \$10 per person or \$5 for student and senior citizens. To make reservations, or for further details, call the center, 455-3376.

Founders Inn, CBN light the season, plan festivities

"Founders Inn/Toys for Tots Christmas: Our Gift to the Community" campaign that is being offered to the Hampton Roads community.

Festivities begin at 4 p.m. and include a tree lighting ceremony, reading of "The Christmas Story" by CBN founder Pat Robertson and his wife, Dede, and special musical entertainment.

Also included will be a live nativity scene, strolling carolers and rides on a horse-drawn trolley with the donation of a canned good for Operation Blessing. All of these free events are part of the good donation.

— Home Improvement —

Furnaces should be serviced annually

The ideal time to have your furnace serviced is in the summer or fall when repair and maintenance companies aren't as busy and prices may be more reasonable. But, don't despair if it has slipped your mind; just be prepared to wait longer for a service appointment and possibly pay higher prices.

While most maintenance contractors are reputable, the furnace "scam artists" are on the move during the fall months. And unfortunately, hundreds of unsuspecting homeowners become victims of their fraudulent and unscrupulous activities. The Better Business Bureau offers the following tips that you don't get taken to the "cleaners" instead:

■ Don't fall for phone solicitations that offer "low cost" or "free" furnace cleaning. Once in the home, the contractor may falsely tell homeowners that their heating system has serious problems that require immediate attention.

■ Don't hire someone who

comes to your door with a "Shop-Vac" type vacuum offering to clean your heating ducts. A proper cleaning requires a high volume vacuum system, maybe even a steam process.

■ Don't hire or sign a contract just because the contractor says you face possible illness or death if the furnace isn't replaced immediately. If told that the furnace threatens your health, ask for a written copy of the contractor's results and call your local utility company.

■ If furnace repair or replacement is recommended, get at least three independent written estimates, from qualified licensed contractors, that fully described the services and materials that will be provided. When comparing estimates, evaluate the price, type of service, warranty and energy efficiency of the unit.

■ Do maintain your furnace by cleaning air returns with a household vacuum cleaner and changing the filter at least three times during the heating season.

All types of furnaces should be serviced annually. In addition, gas furnaces need to be cleaned no less than every two years and oil furnaces no less than every year. For recommendations on qualified licensed furnace contractors ask friends, relatives or co-workers and check the company out with the Better Business Bureau.

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Poet-naturalist returns to False Cape

By Bob Ruegger

Correspondent

If False Cape Flynn is a modern-day Henry David Thoreau, then False Cape State Park must be Flynn's equivalent of Walden Pond.

In pursuing "his own way" in life, Henry David Thoreau was a 19th-century American writer and naturalist who eschewed town life in favor of the simple life.

Thoreau chose to live in a secluded cabin on Walden Pond near Concord, Massachusetts in order to simplify his life, decrease his expenses, and dedicate his efforts to writing and observing nature.

As a naturalist and conservationist, Flynn is not unlike his 19th-century counterpart Thoreau, a pioneer ecologist.

"I don't compare myself to Thoreau," Flynn says. "If other people say or think that, that's their opinion," he shrugs. "It could be that there are some similarities," he allows.

Near Walden Pond, on land owned by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Thoreau built a small, unpretentious cabin in 1845. For two years, months and two days he lived a relatively solitary existence, concentrating upon what he considered the basics of life.

When False Cape Flynn heads for False Cape State Park between the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the North Carolina state line, he has the same basic objectives in mind — to find solitude and to get close to nature.

Just as Thoreau wrote "Walden" — a classic of American literature — for a limited audience, Flynn feels that False Cape State Park is not for everyone.

"When something is easily accomplished, it loses its value," observes Flynn.

"To bus people into a place like False Cape makes False Cape lose some of its value," he says. "The experience of False Cape is something that requires effort to really get the entire experience, he adds.

"Actually, there's nothing at False Cape. There's nothing there. Nothing but trees and sand," he smiles as if keeping a closely guarded secret.

The spiritual part of the sanctuary at False Cape is a result of the hardship in getting there and the experience of solitude after you arrive. There are few places that are like that, and I think that gives it merit as a state park. To make it easy to get in there should not be what they're trying to do," Flynn insists. "False Cape is not for everybody.

Endurance and stamina, as well as a spiritual reason for going out there, are important prerequisites for making the trip to False Cape Park, according to Flynn. "Because there's really not much there but nature," says Flynn.

"It's not like walking in the woods...when there are a lot of things to see. It's just a beach ecosystem that is in a pristine state and in my mind it is gorgeous and I like to go," Flynn says.

The elements are rough in the beach eco-system. Only hardy plants survive there. The leaves of almost everything out there have a waxy coat to them so they can survive. The animals need the protection of the dunes and the swamp otherwise they wouldn't be able to survive out there either. It's a harsh environment — a desert-like environment.

Flynn firmly believes in balance — the delicate balance of nature and the sense of balance in one's personal life.

Knowingly or unknowingly, Flynn shares Thoreau's concern that mankind often neglects important aspects of his nature.

"There are four facets of man — the four are the intellectual, spiritual, physical and social," says Flynn the philosopher.

"If you wanted to define a well-rounded person, it would be a person who, perhaps, is strong in those four areas," he points out.

"Anyone that takes off into any one of those four areas and delves too deeply into it, would be — maybe — a little bit eccentric or different and lose something in life," he explains. Flynn feels that an individual — in order to be well-rounded — should concentrate in developing all four of the basic facets.

Some people are inclined to regard Flynn's fondness for False Cape Park as a little eccentric.

Flynn acknowledges, "They might, but actually it works on all of those four facets."

"The exercise that it takes to get out there—the wonderful exercise is the physical part. The intellectual stimulation of all the questions that you come back with," he says.

"I go back and read quite often to find answers to the questions that occur to me during my visit," he says.

"The spiritual exercise is enormous. The spirituality, the self-reliance that a spiritual person needs is definitely found in an environment like that." When Flynn sees fit to invite another along to share his philosophy and experience, he also satisfies the social exercise which he believes being "well-rounded" requires. So Exercise has a lot to do with why I go to False Cape," he concludes.

From the things that Flynn says, it's easy to conclude that one of his major objectives in trekking through False Cape State Park on Dudley Island Trail or Ocean Bay Trail is a search for solitude which he seems to crave.

"And solitude, I figure, is an important make up of self-reliant men or people that are seeking self-reliance. I enjoy solitude; I enjoy being by myself," he contends.

Just as Thoreau sought relative solitude to work on his writing, Flynn finds that solitude stimulates him to write also.

Every once in a while, Flynn the poet will put his ideas down on paper. But he keeps them in his head as well. Sometimes the thought of an experience that he's had or the sight wildlife — such as a snowy egret or a wild horse — will cause him to spout a few lines of his poetry.

Flynn's poem "Sanctuary" is an example.

"Sanctuary is a safe haven, a place where you can go and feel comfortable and enjoy it," he explains. "False Cape, to me, is a sanctuary. It's a sanctuary for the animals that live there or visit for a brief period — like the geese and ducks, and it's a sanctuary for me too," he says.

"I find pleasure in solitude," Flynn emphasizes.

"Oh, to escape the stage, costumes and props.

I don't need cues or lines, only the sanctum of my mind.

It's acting that tires the soul, such a foolish play as life grows old.

I cherish the sanctuary of the self, I find peace there when nowhere else."

Flynn has not always relished solitude.

"Social skills are an important thing as a young man or young woman, but the older you get, the more you find pleasure in solitude," he says. "The social aspect of your nature can disappear," he claims. But Flynn, like Thoreau is definitely no hermit. "I could be a hermit for a couple of days, but I'm a social being," he stresses. "I'm less social

now than I was as a young man by far," he acknowledges.

Flynn is after both social interaction and solitude. He wants it all.

"I get it all; now I'm on my way back to the big city," Flynn laughs. Usually he takes his time returning home, but today is different. He has plans to attend his son's soccer game.

Thoreau lamented that mankind seems to be in a big hurry to "go nowhere to do nothing." Flynn points out that there are a good many people engaged in the effort to help mankind travel quickly to the destinations of his choice — by cars, planes and trains. But to both Thoreau and Flynn, the journey is the important thing, not the destination.

"There are a lot of places to go, but instead of being in a hurry to get there—the trip itself should be the important thing. Traveling hopefully is better than arriving."

To Flynn life is the journey not a destination. "Life is a trip," Flynn laughs. Flynn believes man needs to work, but that man also needs adventure. "Get on with the adventure; get on with life," he grins.

Flynn and Thoreau would obviously agree upon any number of issues. Another of those issues would be that man needs to be more self-reliant.

"I'm having a good time trying to be myself," Flynn boasts. "I've read Thoreau; I've read a lot of people," he admits. "But I don't go out of way to be like him," he says waving his finger for emphasis. Flynn is a very independent



JAGGED PEAKS. Shipwreck timbers jut out from the sand dunes on the beach near False Cape State Park during one of Russell Flynn's seasonal treks.

thinker. "I'm not imitating anybody," he adds.

"I agree with Thoreau. I think that self-reliance is the most important virtue a man can have," Flynn concedes albeit reluctantly.

Thoreau felt that many of the advances in civilization were really "improved means to unimproved ends." Thoreau favored improving man's spiritual domain along with his material world.

If Thoreau were alive, Flynn would jump at the chance to show the 19th century naturalist around False Cape Park and Thoreau — of course — would be unable to refuse such an invitation. They might even indulge in eating a few wild persimmons.



PRETTY PICTURE. The empty shell of a knobby whelk rolls in the surf at False Cape State Park.



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL. False Cape Flynn examines wild oysters that grow in the dune environment at False Cape State Park.



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Healing: all in the attitude, mind

By Rebecca Young
Correspondent

"Healing is the mind."

That is the philosophy of The Healing Circle, a Virginia Beach group designed to foster peace of mind by working on the thought patterns which create unrest. It is an experiential support group, focusing on issues within your mind that could prevent unrest.

While the group does not heal one physically, it does teach people how to live with their disease or the emotional distress they're going through. Physical healing, the healing of relationships, self-image, occupation, and/or prosperity will all be addressed.

There is a wide range of participants — those fighting AIDS and cancer, those looking for spiritual advance and those who want to heal their mind.

Meditation, affirmation, message, hands on healing, discussion, and other processes will be employed to help in the release of negative thought patterns, and the creation of positive new thoughts. Those who come are exploring spiritual principals and are looking for

contact with God. This is not a religious organization.

The healing of the mind is done through processes. There is forgiveness, anger, gratitude, etc. The employ different methods of healing for each process. For example, to process anger they scream which leads to the release of tension.

The group also uses hugging, therapeutic touch, spiritual singing, and they channel love. These processes allow you to see something that you've never seen before.

For founder Nick Siano, "A miracle is a chance in perception."

Siano, the main facilitator of The Healing Circle, said, "When your mind is healed, you participate in life."

The group focuses mostly on love and joy.

"You can elevate everything with love, it comes from pure motivation," he added. Siano has been working with the terminally ill since 1982 and holds a bachelor degree in human and community Services with a major in psychology from Empire State College in New York. He has 15 years experience with support groups.

Siano is the author of "No Time to Wait," the most popular HIV manual ever, it has changed the face of HIV.

Siano started the group after he asked God for guidance. He felt the community needed a healing group and after lots of meditation and prayer, he decided to form the group. He had founded "The Brooklyn Healing Group" which practices the same processes.

He works with clients all over the world providing information on treatment options, alternative and allopathic, for AIDS and cancer. He leads a popular HIV support group in the area, and is



Nick Siano

currently a case manager with an AIDS service organization in the Tidewater area.

Siano says the group makes him grow, too. He feels he is no better than the others, that a person can always learn something.

"Every experience is a spiritual experience," Siano explained.

This type of healing process is based on the work of Louise L. Hay. There are other known programs such as The Healing Circle in California and New York City, formed when there were no other known therapies for HIV and AIDS.

Psychiatrists and physicians do recommend this from of therapy,

and there are local physicians who tell their patients about The Healing Circle. It is a disputed fact that the survival rate for those with terminal illness that participate in this type of emotional healing doubles their among of time to live.

The Integrative Healing Arts Center in Virginia Beach began a weekly meeting of "The Healing Circle" earlier this month. There was an immediate positive response.

At the Integrative Healing Arts Center, they call this group "their gift to the community." A gift of peace, positive energy, and healing in a time of planetary evolution. The mission of the center is to bring about wellness of body, mind, and spirit.

There will be weekly meetings at the Integrative Healing Arts Center located at 1168 First Colonial Rd., Suite 11 in Virginia Beach, every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m.

There will also be meeting during the holidays. Siano feels those are the times people need healing the most. The spiritual support group is free of charge, but donations will be accepted.

If you have any questions or would like more information, call the center, 496-4861.



Folk hero comes to life

Cape Henry Collegiate upper school Student Council president Beckett Levy became Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman for a day and visited the lower school classes recently. The visit was part of an ongoing program by Cape Henry library staff to make literature "live."

Chamber gala set

The Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Business After Hours Holiday Gala on Dec. 18 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Founders Inn and Conference Center, 5641 Indian River Road, Virginia Beach.

In addition, the volunteer of the year for the Chamber's Virginia Beach Division will be recognized.

The cost is \$7 for chamber members and \$12 for non-members. Reservations are not required. For more information call Caroline Cooper Davis at 664-2573.

Twinklers sparkle in concert

Twinklers To Sizzlers . . . Suzuki Violin will present its 24th Christmas Chanukah Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 13 at Thalia Lynn Baptist Church in Virginia Beach. Forty-five students, ranging in age from 1 to 55 years, will participate. Betsy Lin of Virginia Beach will be the featured soloist in Mozart's "Concerto No. 3 in G Major, K. 216, Allegro."

In addition to standard Chanukah songs and Christmas carols, this year's concert will also offer a group of Christmas songs from Spain, Mexico and Venezuela. John Hobson of Quinton will be the featured vocalist.

Suzanne Schreck of Chesapeake is the nationally-known director of Twinklers To Sizzlers and students come from Chesapeake, Virginia

Beach, Portsmouth, Norfolk, Suffolk, Gloucester, Quinton (near Richmond) and Moyock, N.C.

The Suzuki Violin method is appropriate for students of all ages, and for ability levels ranging from the absolute beginning to college preparatory and is at its best when taken for the full 10-volume, 15-year course. Requiring active parental involvement, Suzuki is a practical child-rearing system as well as a philosophy of life — all for the price of music lessons.

Christmas Chanukah Celebration is free of charge. Following the concert, the audience is invited to join the participants for refreshments. Children of all ages are invited to come and to bring their parents.

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Young artists

Virginia Beach Schools will sponsor an art preview and reception honoring the students and teachers contributing original art works to the Virginia Beach City Public Schools permanent art collection on Dec. 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the School Administration Building. More than 50 mixed media original art works — all created by students, grades 1-12 — have been framed and placed on permanent display in the school administration building. In addition, art teachers and students have created three-dimensional art pieces which are also on display. Student artists, art teachers and their family members and friends have been invited to share in the celebration. A brief program, hosted by Superintendent Dr. Timothy Jenney, will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Festival of crafts

Applications are available for the 1998 Spring Festival of Crafts. Pick up an application at any Virginia Beach Recreation Center or applications can be mailed upon request. This annual festival will take place on Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, March 8, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Great Neck Recreation Center, located at 2521 Shorehaven Drive (off Great Neck Road, adjacent to Cox High School) in Virginia Beach. Table fees are \$35 for members and \$70 for non-members. For further information, call Great Neck Recreation Center, 496-5766, TDD 471-5839.

Puppet magic

Families can celebrate the season with the Emmy Award-winning Spectrum Puppets production of Spectrum's Magical Toy Shop, a fantasy of holiday highlights from around the world. This special performance is being offered in conjunction with "Objectivity," at the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, an exhibition of international sculpture. Using amazing hand-crafted marionette puppets and masks, this performance will bring the spirit of the season to children and their families. Cost is \$5 per person. Call the education department at 425-0000 for reservations.

Jaycees gala

The Virginia Beach Jaycees will hold its Fifth Annual New Year's Gala on Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. This black tie-optinal event will be held at the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia located at 2300 Parks Ave. Tickets are \$35 per person and include music, dancing, hor d'oeuvres, refreshments, party favors, midnight toast and a cash bar. The reservation deadline is Dec. 20. For tickets and more information, contact Karen, 498-1194.

UCP gala set

United Cerebral Palsy of Southeastern Virginia and the Norfolk Airport Hilton will cruise into 1998 aboard the USS Hilton for a New Year's Eve Gala to raise funds for United Cerebral Palsy's Summer Tech Camp. Tickets for the New Year's Eve Gala are \$125 per person and include overnight accommodation at the Norfolk Airport Hilton with champagne in your room upon arrival, heavy hors d'oeuvres, open bar, Casino gambling and a disc jockey for dancing. United Cerebral Palsy will receive \$25 from every ticket sale. All attendees are eligible to win a condominium for a week at Wintergreen Resort in Virginia as well as other raffle prizes donated by local businesses. Tickets are now on sale. For more information, call the Hilton, 466-8000.

Bears for CHKD

A special purchase this holiday season will allow busy shoppers to do two things at once: donate to their favorite charity and get a cuddly toy in the arms of someone they love. Life Savings Bank is selling stuffed bears, available in brown, tan or white, for \$10 each, at all branches of Life Savings Bank. All proceeds from the sales will benefit Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters (CHKD), the state's only free-standing pediatric hospital. The image of the teddy bear is well-known to patients and families familiar with CHKD. The hospital's mascot, Healthy Bear, makes regular appearances at special events in the area. For information on branch locations, call 858-1000.

Crisis Center

The Crisis Center, a 24-hour telephone, suicide prevention/crisis intervention service, is offering a training course for those interested in volunteering with their program. The volunteer staff is comprised of residents from all areas of South Hampton Roads, including Western Tidewater. There are no educational qualifications to be met. The training is free. The next course will begin Jan. 15, two evenings a week for eight weeks. There is a critical need for daytime and overnight volunteers. Applicants must attend an orientation. Call the center by Jan. 11 for further information, 399-6395.

Budget director reports strong financial conditions for city

By Lee Cahill
City Council Reporter

For years as Dean Block, director of management services, delivered his five-year budget forecast the uncertainties surrounding Lake Gaston water were factored in.

But this year, as he said to City Council at a work session Tuesday, the completion of Lake Gaston "removes the economic albatross of lacking a permanent water supply that has hampered some economic

COUNCIL RETREAT

City Council will have a planning session at a retreat in the Pavilion on Dec. 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The formal council session will be held at 6 p.m., rescheduled from the Dec. 23 meeting which has been cancelled.

development."

Generally, Block said that the current

fiscal condition of the city is excellent, thanks to a strong fund balance position, AA/Aa2 bond rating and relatively low per capita spending.

Block said that local revenues will naturally grow at an average rate of 4-6 percent over the forecast period, without tax rate changes, as in last year's forecast but not at the 10 to 12 percent rate experienced during the growth years of 1968-86.

Among the issues the city will have to contend with are:

■ The changing demographics — the

See BUDGET, Page 10

City's bond rating is excellent, director says

By Lee Cahill
City Council Reporter

The city's financial condition is excellent, according to Patricia A. Phillips, director of finance, and you can't get much better than that.

In reporting on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997 at a City Council work session Tuesday, Phillips said, however, that she would like to get a bond rating for Virginia Beach even higher than the AA/Aa2 it has now.

The bond rating, which the city receives from the financial rating agencies, even now, saves the city millions in interest rates when it borrows money in the bond market.

Much credit for the favorable bond rating can be attributed to the maintenance of a comfortable fund balance at the end of the fiscal year the city had \$60.6 million in its undesignated fund balance, \$13.2 million less than the previous year's balance but still within the limits set by council requiring a fund balance of between 75 percent and 100 percent of the subsequent fiscal year's debt service payments, excluding the water and sewer enterprise fund. The target for the year required a balance of 82.5 percent which would equal \$57.9 million.

See BEACH, Page 10

FIVE-YEAR FORECAST

From the 97/98 fiscal year to the 2002-03 fiscal year the budget is expected to grow from \$960 million to \$1,204 billion with deficits forecast for all the years past the current year which means that expenditures will have to be reduced or taxes will have to be increased.

The deficits range from \$15.3 million in 98/99; \$28.6 million in 99/00; \$8.7 million in 00/01; \$31 million in 01/02 and \$34.4 million in 02/03.

Photo by Jane Rowe

Make it a 'country Christmas'

By Jane Rowe

Correspondent

Prize-winning mules, puppets, a clown and Sinter Klaus, a European version of Santa Claus, were on hand last Saturday to kick off the Christmas season at the Farmers' Market.

Sinter and his helpers, Zappie the clown and mules Jack and Pearl, braved cold winds to greet children and adults as part of this year's grand illumination at the market. The event was held to benefit the Children's Performance Workshop, a non-profit group that performs puppet shows aimed at teaching children to recognize and respond appropriately to child abuse.

Captain George's Seafood Restaurant, the event's sponsor, also sent along some crew members to pass out free hot chocolate, cookies and clam chowder to help visitors deal with last weekend's cold front. Local merchants also offered some happy alternatives to Christmas presents for those who are weary of city crowds and mall shopping. Creative gift-givers can find items ranging from herbal vinegar's produce to local honey at Farmers' Market this year.

Marschelder, who is also director of Spectrum Puppets, said that administrators at a local Montessori School asked her about 10 years ago to produce a puppet show aimed at educating children about sexual abuse. Marschelder, who's been doing puppets for about 25 years, said that she spent five years researching the topic of sexual abuse in order to put together the program. She worked with educators, social workers and law enforcement officials to develop an age-appropriate program that would help young children recognize, avoid and disclose abuse.

Children's Performance Workshop is based in Virginia Beach, and although she and her puppets have performed nation-wide and in Canada, the primary focus areas is Hampton Roads, Marschelder said. "We've been going into the local public schools for

RED-ROBED VISITOR. Sinter Klaus, otherwise known as Tom Long, reads to children who attended Saturday's grand illumination at the Virginia Beach Farmers' Market.

about six years now," she said, "and we won an Emmy in 1993 for the best educational documentary."

This year, the group has its own St. Nicholas, otherwise known as Tim Long, who impersonates Sinter Klaus at the Farmers' Market Event. European children, Long explained to the group of kids gathered around him, left their shoes out in anticipation of Sinter's visit on Saturday.

"If the children are good, they get fruits or nuts in their shoes," he said, "but if they're bad, they only get a lump of coal. But I don't have to leave too many lumps of coal."

Long, who in his other life works as a manager at Captain George's

Seafood Restaurant, said that he's been playing the role of Santa Claus for about 10 years.

He began in his hometown of Akron, Ohio, then continued when he moved here and frequently performs as Santa at local stores and in elementary schools, where he presides at the Breakfast with Santa Claus' events. He discovered Spectrum Puppets when he needed a new suit and "somebody referred them to me to make a suit for me." He hopes to work with them in future events.

"Now it's really taken off and we have lots of things planned," he added.

See MAKE, Page 10

Cops for Kids spread cheer



Law enforcement officers take youth on shopping spree

By Victoria Hecht
Editor

Santa doesn't always wear a red coat and fur-trimmed hat, nor does he necessarily drive a sleigh guided by eight reindeer.

In Hampton Roads, Santa might sport around town in a shiny patrol vehicle or don a blue or brown uniform with a shiny badge. And, for that matter, Santa might not even be a "he." A "she" will do quite well, thank you.

Twenty-five youngsters from all corners of Hampton Roads learned those lessons Saturday during the annual Kids for Cops shopping spree. Sponsored by the Police Association of Virginia, each child was given two hours and \$200 to shop 'til they dropped.

"This is trying to make a difference in some children's lives and show them that law enforcement officers do care, and show their families that law enforcement is a part of their community. We're concerned about the

DECISIONS, DECISIONS. Virginia Beach DARE Officer Jay Gregory and 10-year-old Aaren Knucht discuss the merits of one remote-controlled car versus another during the annual Cops for Kids shop-a-thon.

See COPS, Page 10

Commentary

DRUNK DRIVING, HOLIDAYS DON'T MIX

None for the road

If you're like most people, you probably think that alcohol-related traffic accidents only happen to other people — not to you or your loved ones, and certainly not during the holidays.

Think again.

The National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration estimates that a shocking two out of every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives. In addition, it is estimated that 2.75 million drunk driving accidents annually victimize 1.64 million people.

These are nothing short of staggering revelations about a dangerous practice — drinking and driving.

According to AAA of Tidewater statistics, however, there is a greater public consciousness today when it comes to drinking and driving. A few years ago, no one thought much about drinking at a party and then getting behind the wheel. But things are different now thanks to such groups as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Students Against Drunk Driving and AAA, which have spread the word that drinking and driving don't mix.

Another thumbs up goes to cab companies that offer free rides to intoxicated would-be drivers, and bars and restaurants that let the designated driver have free non-alcoholic beverages.

During the holidays, folks should be celebrating together — not mourning because someone made the wrong choice to drink and drive. — V.E.H.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SMARTS

Santa's toy bag

It's an age-old question: what should I get him (or her) for Christmas? If it's a child you are talking about, there are another set of problems to address as well — from whether the gift will hold the child's attention to, more importantly, whether it's safe. Many presents given with the best of intentions have ended up causing needless injury.

During the holiday season, stores are flooded with new and exciting toys, from this year's fast-selling Sing and Snore Ernie and Talking Bubba to old standbys like Legos and Lincoln Logs. For parents, grandparents and friends, make the task easier by following some common sense shopping tips:

Basic considerations

Early childhood educators agree that toys play significant roles in helping children from infancy through school age develop important educational concepts and life skills. Good toys should entertain and occupy their attention. In fact, one of the main values of a good toy is to extend a child's attention span.

Several shopping points should be considered:

■ Is the toy safe — well-constructed, no rough edges, unbreakable and free of parts that can be swallowed?

■ Will the toy appeal to the child's likes? This is an important consideration because not all children of the same age have similar interests.

■ Will the child be capable of enjoying the toy? Some toys are just too complicated or too simple for a specific age group.

■ Will the toy hold the child's attention over a period of time? Most toys are designed just to satisfy a child's initial interests.

Age appropriate suggestions

Still confused when pondering the possibilities? A trip down the toy aisle of any store can prove a daunting experience for even the most avid adult shoppers. If this is the case, consider a few of the long-cherished standbys:

■ Infants — stuffed toys, rattles and mobiles.

■ Toddlers (12 to 36 months) — dolls, blocks, lightweight balls and push-and-pull toys.

■ Preschool children (3 to 5 years old) — "make believe" fantasy games, storybooks and art supplies.

■ School-age children (6 to 12 years old) — bicycles, board games, musical instruments, scientific and mechanical toys, and sports-related equipment.

Remember, above all, that safety counts. Happy shopping and good luck! — V.E.H.

Tell a friend you read about it in
The Virginia Beach Sun.



Friends, strength are the backbone in beating cancer

About 334,500 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1997. I will be included in those statistics. My urologist informed me last Monday that a recent biopsy indicates that I have a form of cancer called Adenocarcinoma.

T h a n k God it is not in the advanced stage, according to my urologist.

With hormone therapy and radiation therapy, I should be finished with

the basic treatment in six months. Of course, there will be follow-up examinations for the rest of my life.

Even at age 73, I guess I still feel the same emotions that other prostate cancer victims felt when they were told that they had a malignancy. First is an immediate depression, panic, anger and feelings of hope to despair. Then there is the feeling of courage that changes back to fear — and so it goes. Fortunately, I have been blessed with a wonderful family and many close friends. Even now, at this early stage, the support has been overwhelming.

Cancer is not new to my family. My mother and oldest daughter died from cancer. My youngest daughter and wife have been treated for it, and now it is my turn. Several of my dearest friends have been treated recently for prostate cancer, so we have formed an exclusive club led by former Chesapeake Mayor Sid Oman, who himself had prostate cancer.

The incidence of diagnosed prostate cancer is rising. It is estimated that by the end of the century, there will be 90 percent more prostate cancer diagnoses than in the 1980s. The American Cancer Society (ACS) has developed guidelines to help doctors detect prostate cancer during its early stages.

They recommend that men 40 and older have digital rectal examination (DRE) every year. In addition, men over 50 should also have a yearly test to measure prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in their blood.

Having served on the Chesapeake Hospital Authority for 12 years, I was familiar with the doctors who serve our staff. Based on past successes, I am convinced that we have some of the finest urologists and radiation oncologists in Virginia. Knowing the right doctors to work with and having the Sidney M. Oman Cancer Treatment Center to go to for my radiation, I am confident that things will go well with me.

With my family, friends and my trust in God, I have the will to fight and fight I will. I told my wife, Billie, that if I could survive World War II as a marine in the South Pacific, I can survive anything. I believe that things will go well with me.

Welcome to the real world.

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Getting down to (dirty) business

I admit it. I hate doing laundry. When one hates to do laundry, it tends to pile up...and up...and up!

Needless to say, mine is stacked sky high. Luckily, Evan has

lots of clothes, so we don't tend to fuss when the pile grows.

Of course, there comes a point when even the biggest clothes-horse runs low on apparel.

That's when I do laundry.

Last weekend was one of those times.

I let the laundry get particularly bad when Evan suggested a trip to the laundromat might be in order. The laundromat? I was aghast. Why, we had a perfectly good washer and dryer in our home.

"But we have so much to do, Vicki," he said matter-of-factly. "It would take you all weekend to do it."

Sadly, he was right.

We had to first sort the laundry into huge garbage bags for carrying to the laundromat. Evan was ready with an arsenal of those tough, black bags to collect leaves and yard waste.

Towels took up two bags, comforters and blankets took two more, and underwear and socks had a bag all to themselves. Another four bags were

stuffed to the top with assorted shirts, jeans, shorts, skirts and so forth.

Next we stuck up on quarters, \$25 worth to be exact, and enough detergent and fabric softener for the job.

It took two cars to hold all the bags and supplies, six in his car and three in mine.

We really didn't think there would be many people at the laundromat a Friday night, but we were wrong. A group of about seven Spanish-speaking men were apparently having "boys night out," and a few young women were dutifully sorting, washing and drying laundry.

Thank goodness it was a large laundromat, because we planned to do all the dirty stuff at once and dry it.

I started loading a machine with towels, emptying the half the bag before moving on to another machine. Pretty soon I had filled about 10 machines, just enough for us to have a difficult time remembering which ones ours.

"OK, now put the money in," Evan instructed.

That's when I reeled back.

"A buck and a quarter?" I shouted.

"To do laundry? When I was in college it was 75 cents for the wash and 25 cents for the dry!"

"Well," Evan smirked, "you're not in college anymore."

I grumbled about highway robbery under my breath while Evan scoped out the large, industrial size machines. We had a few bags left and the smaller machines were quickly filling up.

"Let's try these big ones down here," he suggested.

I trudged to the other end of the laundromat and began stuffing clothes into the super-sized models. They

cost from \$2.50 to \$3.50.

"Honey, we're gonna need more quarters," I observed.

"OK, so go get them," he said. "I'll wash the machines. Get us some dinner while you're out."

I complied, arriving back in 20 minutes with another \$10 in quarters and a sack of food. By now Evan was shoving laundry in the dryers. His quarters were at a critical low.

We fared pretty well. Only one load of laundry got scorched by a super-heated dryer, significantly shrinking one of my favorite flannel tops. Oh well. But those suckers dried clothing in record time, much faster than our Whirlpool at home.

Within two and a half hours we were folding and sorting, then stuffing stacks into the black bags.

The evening had been a real learning experience for me, if not an expensive proposition.

Seeing as how I'd never used a laundromat before, except the one in our dorm at college, I found that they have a culture of their own.

People meet and greet at laundromats. They mix and mingle. Romances bloom there, and young lovers have horrific fights without noticing all the people staring at them.

It's not that I didn't enjoy my experience. I just feel poor after it. Surely it doesn't cost as much for me to wash and dry my clothing at home, or does it? Well, at least it was entertaining.

As we look forward to a new year, one thing will top my New Year's resolution list: laundry. I promise to do it more often.

Then again, promises are made to be broken.



Off the Cuff

By Victoria Hecht, editor

I let the laundry get particularly bad when Evan suggested a trip to the laundromat might be in order. The laundromat? I was aghast. Why, we had a perfectly good washer and dryer in our home.

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Deck the City Hall

Wow! You should see the lobby of the Administration Building at the Municipal Center. Everywhere you look there are dressed teddy bears.


The Mayor's Report
 Mayor Meyers Oberndorfer
 They are so adorable. The bears, a total of 1,000 plus, were given to the city municipal employees by the Salvation Army to dress. They will be picked up around December 12 for distribution to some very lucky boys and girls who have been adopted with the decorations of our two Sister Cities, Miyazaki, Japan and Moss, Norway.

In the midst of all these teddy bears, there are three Christmas trees. The center tree is 10 feet tall and is decorated with ornaments donated by the Lillian Vernon Corporation (who incidentally also donated all three trees). The other two trees, each 7 1/2 feet tall, stand on either side of the big tree and are adorned with the decorations of our two Sister Cities, Miyazaki, Japan and Moss, Norway.

The items of the Miyazaki tree were made by elementary school children, as well as children with disabilities, in Miyazaki. These items were brought to the U.S. by the Miyazaki Delegation of Persons with Disabilities when they visited Virginia Beach at the end of October. Their visit was a continuation of the celebration of the Fifth Anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Virginia Beach and Miyazaki.

All the decorations on the Miyazaki tree were made by using the art of

paper folding (Origami); paper cranes, representing world peace, paper hats, paper faces, paper balls, paper kimonos and paper garland. The Japanese people celebrate this time of year as a family bonding time. They celebrate for celebration's sake and do so in goodwill toward mankind.

The Norwegian tree was decorated by members of the Sons of Norway organization celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Hampton Roads Chapter. The handmade items on the tree are all red, white or blue except for one silver ball with the picture of a raven with Moss spelled out across the top. This is a replica of what is on all the municipal stationary of Moss, Norway.

The red and white heart baskets represent love and usually hold sweet treats. Streamers of the Norwegian flag gracefully flow from the top to the bottom of the tree. The Scandinavians celebrate the season in a more traditional way than we do. They allow only about two weeks for commercial purposes while the rest is more religious.

If you will remember, thousands of unknown citizens of Moss, Norway gave us the bronze Norwegian Lady statue which sits at the Oceanfront on 25th Street, facing the ocean. At the base is a plaque that reads, "I am the Norwegian lady. I stand here as my sister before me to wish all men of the sea, safe return home."

This is the first year for our two Sister Cities to participate in this seasonal celebration, we know this will further our association, thereby establishing a tradition that when the City's tree goes up, it will be joined by the two trees representing our two Sister City relationships.

Once again, we have experienced that when one country touches another we can all live in harmony and peace, another symbol of "hands across the sea."

By Victoria Hecht
Editor

The passage from high school to college, professional training or the workforce is a big change for young men and women. Bill Graham is there to ease that transition at the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center.

"It's basically doing everything with the student, from his or her leaving the center to what they do afterward. It deals with employees and continuing education, because everything we do goes into our mission: Quality employment and lifelong learning," he said.

As school to work transition coordinator, Graham works directly with the center's tools for a successful entry into the world of work — mentoring, job shadowing, career training.

"The way we look at it, the bottom line of education is employment, not college," Graham explained. "College may be one of the tools used to get employment, but we look at the student as a success if he or she is ever employed, which may include taking on college, continuing education or postsecondary learning."

About 37 percent of last year's graduates from the Career and Technical Education Center went on to full-time employment, while another 31 percent chose community college. Still another 14 percent are attending a four-year college, and 8 percent are in post-secondary school. Just 7 percent were undecided or chose other alternatives.

"The trend today is for students with postsecondary education and skills, but not necessarily a four-year college degree," Graham said.

Virginia Beach students early on can see the possibilities in a technical or career education.

"They don't have to be here; they select to be here. We have a waiting list every year now," Graham said. "So we must be doing something right. It's a team effort."

The center prepares teens in 28 different occupations, running the gamut from construction to computer networking to cosmetology. Graham is the critical link between the classroom, internships, off-campus community projects that offer work experience, industry certification courses and the world of employment.

"Many students graduate from college today and don't have jobs. What they end up doing is going to private schools and pay \$6,000 a year for skills which they could have had free in high school. Sometimes the students don't realize the bargain they're getting here, even though it's a win-win for everybody."

Graham, who considers himself a "people person," enjoys the opportunity to get out of the office and see students hands-on in work environments.

"It's nothing artificial. I'm getting out and actually seeing the employers, students, and teachers."

Graham has held the school to work transition position for four years at the center. Before that he held a similar job at the administrative level. He is a long-time administrator.

"I graduated from high school when the Vietnam War was going on. We had a decision at the time, college or war. I decided on Old Dominion University. In my junior year I decided to go into education," he said.

With diploma in hand Graham's first teaching position was at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake, where he remained for 11 years. In 1980, he came to the Virginia Beach schools, where he led a central placement office operating from the Career Development Center. When that office was dissolved he went to administration, and finally to the Technical and Career Education Center.

As the school year nears its second half, Graham is busy compiling data and calling on potential employers. Year-round, he also fields calls from local businesses seeking skilled workers.

The biggest selling point for the center is its product — the students — who are trained in small classes in intensive three-hour blocks.

"When you mix education with the skills they get here, they (the students) have got a good start," he noted. "Education is the bottom line."

Name: R. William Graham.

What brought you to this area: I was one of the few people who was born, raised and live in the Hampton Roads lower tri-city area of Norfolk, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach. I was born in Norfolk, worked in Chesapeake and Virginia Beach and have lived in all three areas — presently in the Great Bridge section of Chesapeake.

Hometown: Norfolk (South Bayview). I attended Norview High School.

Age: I hate to say it, 50! But I feel 25 years younger.

Nickname: Friends I grew up with over the years still call me Billy. Today I go by Bill, but R. William Graham is on my checks.

Occupation: I have been in education since 1969. For my first 11

Up close and personal

Bill Graham: A smooth transition



years I was a teacher at Oscar Smith High School. I came to the Beach in 1980 and have been here in various positions since then.

Marital Status: Married to Andi.

Children: Matt is 16 years old and a junior at Great Bridge High School. I am proud to say that he is an honor student, in the award-winning Great Bridge High School Marching Band, on the boys tennis team (went to state last year) and on the junior class council.

Favorite authors: James Patterson, Sandra Brown and Robert Daley are my favorite authors. However, I look at Barnes and Noble frequently for other national best-selling authors.

Favorite night on the town: A Broadway play at Chrysler Hall or an evening of opera at the Harrison Opera House would be a special night out.

Favorite restaurant: My regular favorite restaurant is Court House Café in Great Bridge. The people are friendly and courteous. In addition, just about every day I drop by the Greenbrier Country Club, my home away from home!

Favorite meal and beverage: At Court House Café my favorite meal is to split a seafood platter and have a Heiniken. At Greenbrier Country Club my favorite meal is a good old chicken salad sandwich and a double gin and tonic.

Favorite musicians: My musicians as much as my music. Country and Western is great; my favorite group is Sawyer Brown. Barry Manilow is my favorite for easy listening music. The Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, and Crosby, Stills and Nash are my favorite "lashes from the past." In Christian music I like the vocal band Gaither and Dallas Holm.

Most embarrassing moment: One time, years ago, I was out fishing in a boat in the Willoughby Bay with a co-worker and our principal. At the conclusion of the day before we started back, I stood up in the boat to shake their hands and thank them for their company. While standing up I lost my balance and did a backward flip into the water. I also drowned swimming back to the boat while I kept hearing "Where did he go?" in the midst of the laughter.

How I would like to be remembered: As a friend and someone who focused on the good of people rather than constantly looking for the bad.

If I received \$1 million: I would probably die of excitement. However, if I lived I would help out family, retire and allow my hobbies to become my new full-time work.

Ideal vacation: In the winter my ideal vacation would be to go back to New Hampshire and spend some time in the Follensbee Inn. This was a great little inn with good food, people and near some nice ski slopes. In the summer my ideal vacation would be to return to Hawaii and stay on the beach. However, Avon, N.C. is also heaven on

Suspects sought in Nov. slaying, assault

Virginia Beach police need your help in locating three men charged with murder.

On Friday, Nov. 28 at about noon, three people were shot at 5502 Gates Landing Rd. Nathaniel Brown died at Virginia Beach General Hospital from his injuries.

A 16-year-old is still in serious condition in a local hospital. Wanted for murder is Lemar Jamie Anderson, a black male, 22 years old, 5-feet-10-inches tall, 220 pounds.

Anderson had shoulder length dreads. Information is he has cut his hair and shaved his beard. Anderson has been seen riding around in a 1983, four-door Chevrolet, light in color, with Virginia license 2BZ4180. Rashad M. Floyd is a black male, 19 years old, 5-feet-7-inches tall, 150 pounds. Wayne R. Marshall is a black male, 22 years old, 5-feet-8-inches tall, 150 pounds.

CrimeSolvers will pay up to \$1,000 for the arrest of these individuals. Call 427-0000. You will remain anonymous and will not have to appear in court.



Lemar Anderson



Wayne Marshall



Rashad Floyd

Optimist essay contest

The Optimist Club of Virginia Beach is sponsoring an essay contest entitled "My Opinion of Freedom" open to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors, under the age of 19 as of Dec. 31.

The local club will award medallions to the first, second and third place winners, the first place winner will compete in the District Level contest where the award for first place is a plaque and an expense-paid trip to a Leadership Workshop in Valley Forge, Penn. First, second and third place awards at the national level are \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 respectively. All essays must be original and must be submitted to the local club by Monday, Jan. 12.

For complete contest rules and application see your high school English teacher or contact club event chairman Donald Hawkins, 481-4635.

Optimist International is one of the largest and most active service organizations, with over 150,000

members in 4,200 Optimist clubs in the United States, Canada and other nations, with the motto "Friend of Youth." Optimist Clubs conduct service projects which reach six million young people each year.

Families needed for holiday project

The 1997 Holiday Adopt-A-Family Project for Mental Retardation Programs in Virginia Beach needs persons, organizations or businesses to sponsor needy individuals that have mental retardation for the holiday season. Some families still need sponsorship, but the largest need is for single adults who have no family and are living in Virginia Beach in supportive living placements. If you would like to help with food or gift donations, contact Sheila Bogart, coordinator of volunteers, 437-6095.

members in 4,200 Optimist clubs in the United States, Canada and other nations, with the motto "Friend of Youth." Optimist Clubs conduct service projects which reach six million young people each year.

Age: I hate to say it, 50! But I feel 25 years younger.

Nickname: Friends I grew up with over the years still call me Billy. Today I go by Bill, but R. William Graham is on my checks.

Occupation: I have been in education since 1969. For my first 11

'Santas' came bearing... spaghetti!

By Victoria Hecht

Putting on a Christmas bash for hundreds of holiday-hyped 4 to 11 year olds is no easyfeat.

Just ask the folks at The Spaghetti Warehouse, who opened their doors Saturday to almost 400 underprivileged Hampton Roads children. The restaurant has hosted the community celebration for six years, spreading smiles to more than 2,200 youngsters since its inception.

"We do this event as a way of thanking the community for their support throughout the year, but we mainly look to the children who may not have the brightest of Christmases," said coordinator Stuart Cade.

Less fortunate children from Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach are selected to attend the party by local organizations. Then, on party day, The Spaghetti Warehouse teams with dozens of volunteers who give their time as chaperones, greeters, face painters and servers.

Helping out this year were representatives from the DARE/Crime Prevention Unit in Norfolk and Chesapeake, Portsmouth Sheriff's Office, Virginia Beach Police Athletic League, Armed Services YMCA, YMCA, Youth Service and East Ocean View Baptist Church Weekday Ministries. Marines, clad in their dress blues, greeted youngsters at the door.

The warehouse's annual celebration is one of the largest in the area.

"Putting on an event like this together takes several months planning, mainly because you're coordinating between eight and 10 groups of children, making sure you have enough food, volunteers and all the other logistics," Cade said.

The efforts paid off as hundreds of youngsters filled into the brightly-decorated restaurant. Red and green balloons tied to chairs set the mood, and tables were covered in white paper awaiting the youths' crayon creations. About five bushels of popcorn were downed as the children awaited their meal of spaghetti, salad and garlic bread.

Meanwhile, face painters circulated among the tables, and Santa Claus paid a visit with his gift-laden sack. Bobby the Clown was on hand with his antics. And each child took home gifts



SAY CHEESE. A delegation of Virginia Beach youngsters put on their best smiles with Officer Wayne Pympton before feasting on plates piled with steaming spaghetti.

courtesy of Lillian Vernon and McDonald's.

For many of the children, the opportunity to dine in a restaurant is a rare treat.

"I've been here before — I came last year," 10-year-old Virginia Beach resident Sherri Korlowski said proudly. "Sitting down and eating is the best part."

Jasmine Silver of Virginia Beach, also 10, came full of expectation.

"I've never been here before," the Seatack Elementary fifth grader said, "but the way everyone talks about it I'm going to have a good time!"

Each volunteer has his own reason for donating a Saturday to the cause.

"We work with kids every day and enjoy being with children," said Chesapeake policeman Gary Serra, a DARE officer. "This rejuvenates us. It gives us lots of joy to see kids smiling and having a great time. We're off duty and volunteering the time is a positive thing for the kids."

DARE officer Cecil Philpot, also from Chesapeake, has helped the program a number of years. He keeps coming back.

"For some of these kids, this is the best meal they'll get today. They seem to enjoy it, which is what it's all about. They get to share time with each other and

police officers. Everything Mom has told them, like 'if you're not good that policeman is going to get you,' seem to go away."

Alysse Womble of Portsmouth, volunteering as a member of Old Dominion University's Town-and-Gown chapter, said, "It's a wonderful idea to help those who might not have a nice Christmas. So many people are putting forth an effort to help. My granddaughter Sarah, who is only 13, wanted to come too and help. When you see these happy children today, you learn it doesn't take a whole lot to make

them happy."

Portsmouth youngsters were treated to a special visit from Mayor James Holley III and Sheriff Gary Waters, who plopped down alongside the children to enjoy steaming plates of spaghetti and hearty fellowship.

Additional support for the holiday celebration came from Toys For Tots, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, Marine Air Control Squadron 24, Yard Cards by Mimi, Greenbrier Mall, Merman Productions, Norfolk Sheriff's Office and Frances Cake.

Scholarship contest kicks off

The Making A Difference Foundation will be conducting its 1998 Third Annual Essay Scholarship Contest Dec. 15 and Feb. 15 for Hampton Roads high school students in grades nine through 12.

Entrants must submit an official application along with an essay of at least 500, but not more than 1,000 words, on "The Person Who Made the Biggest Difference in My Life."

Nine scholarships for between \$250 to \$750 will be awarded to 12 grade winners, and cash prizes ranging up to \$75 will be awarded

to winners from the ninth, 10th and 11th grade categories. All entrants must be accompanied by an official application, which will be available from high schools across the area.

Making A Difference classes, Gibson World Travel on Independence Boulevard in Virginia Beach, and The Cyber Shack on Kempsville Road in Virginia Beach, who along with others helped sponsor this year's contest.

Awards will be announced in early April. For more information, call 495-5009.

— Home Improvement —

Protecting plants from cold weather

Most Americans are already beginning to experience the first icy reminders of oncoming winter.

Here are some tips for keeping your plants healthy in whatever climate you find yourself:

■ **Severe climates.** To ensure plants will survive the winter, particularly tender evergreens and perennials, mulching is very important. A 3- to 4-inch layer

of leaves or a similar organic material helps soil retain moisture and prevents or decreases soil freezing.

Windbreaks provide additional cold protection, as does covering or wrapping plants with burlap, frost blankets or a similar material. A covering of evergreen boughs provides excellent protection for perennials, in addition to mulch.

Mild-climate southern zones. Freezes aren't common in these zones, but frost is. Covering ornamental and vegetable plants with frost blankets — sheets of plastic that trap warm air under and around plants — is usually the best choice for cold protection.

Tropical plants, which are damaged at temperatures above freezing, are also best protected by covering. Banking — mounding mulch or soil around a plant's base — or trunk wraps can be used to insulate plants. Extreme cold may injure or kill

exposed growth, but protected trunk and branches survive.

■ **Mild climates.** Gardeners in these climates often use sprinkler irrigation to protect plants from cold. Water freezes, releases heat and insulates plants at about 33 degrees. But once ice forms on the plant, irrigation must continue. If the irrigation is turned off, the ice covering the plant cools to the air temperature or lower.

Sprinkler irrigation also isn't a good idea during windy conditions.

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Home Improvement is a weekly feature sponsored by these local businesses. It presents valuable tips and information about home repairs to help you decide whether a pending project should be handled by a professional or is a do-it-yourself job. For more information, call one of the experts displayed here.

HAMPTON ROADS ON THE MOVE

TBA officers installed at recent Builders Ball

The new slate of elected officers were installed at the annual Builders Ball recently held at the Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel.

More than 350 Builder and Associate Members attended the gala affair, which featured a formal dinner, an awards program, officers' installation and musical entertainment.

Awards were presented to several members who had demonstrated outstanding service to TBA during the past year. Mary Alice Beale of R.W. Tyler and Associates and Alice Taylor-Smith of NHP Management Inc. shared honors. Member of the Year for TBA, M. Susan Cerino of First Coastal Bank/First Coastal Mortgage Corp., was recognized as Associate Member of the Year and Todd's Cleaning Service received the Rookie of the Year award.

■ James R. "Jimmy" Jackson Jr. was installed as secretary. President of Jackson Construction Inc., he has been a member of TBA for 16 years and was first named to the board of directors in 1983.

■ Joseph C. Robinson was installed as the treasurer. He is president of Joe Robson Custom Construction Co. Inc. and has been a member of TBA for more than 10 years.

This year's Executive Committee appointees are Judy B. Crumley of Crumley Group Inc. and Kenneth A. Diers of Langley and McDonald.

The following builder members installed on the board for two-year terms that end November 1999: July B. Crumley of Crumley Group Inc., John C. Napolitano of Napolitano Homes, Robert B. Mullins of Quality Homes Inc. and L. Bert Reavis. Alex Pete Kotarides of Kotarides Co. and W.H. McCutcheon Jr. of McQ Builders and Developers Inc. will fill term that expire November 1998 vacated by Richard S. Foster and James R. Jackson Jr.

Associate directors taking seats on the board for two-year terms are: John R. Reddeccil of First Coastal Bank, J. Van Rose Jr. of Rose and Kruehl Realty Corp., E.J. Ryan Jr. of NationsBank N.A. and H. MacWeaver II of Creslar Bank. Richard J. Guleber of Virginia Power and Art J. Zachary of Womble Reilly will fill terms vacated November 1998 by Scott M. Gandy and Thomas A. Hyman Jr.

The new officers installed during the evening's festivities included:

- Larry R. Hill of L.R. Hill Custom Builders was installed as TBA's 1998 president. He will succeed Fred Napolitano II. As president of L.R. Hill Custom Builders Inc., Hill has been building custom homes in the area since 1984. A graduate of Old Dominion University, Hill has a degree in mechanical engineering.
- He has been a TBA member since 1988 and a member of the board of directors since 1991. An award-winning Homearama veteran, Hill built the 1993 Charity House. He has served on a number of TBA committees, including the Builders' Ball Task Force and the Homearama Committee.
- Jeffrey W. Ainslie was installed as the 1998 first vice president. He is president of Benchmark Building Corp., which has been a TBA member for 13 years. He has served on TBA's Executive Committee for six years and has been a board member for eight years.
- Benchmark Building Corp. was the builder of last year's Scholarship House. Ainslie is one of TBA's top new member recruits and has been recognized by the National Association of Home Builders as a top membership recruiter.
- Robert A. Widener was installed as the 1998 second vice president. He is owner and president of The Widener Corp. and has been a TBA member for 18 years. He has been a member of the board of directors since 1991. Widener is a TBA Spike, a

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News deadline is Friday at noon for publication in the next week's newspaper. Advertising deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. for publication in that week's issue. Send all materials to: Hampton Roads on the Move, c/o The Chesapeake Post, 1024 N. Battlefield Blvd., Chesapeake, Va. 23320. Phone: 647-4671. Fax: 648-0390

Lighthouse Center is beacon to homeless

New services facility opens at the Beach

By Matthew Shanley
Correspondent

David Ward knows about cold, icy, days like Sunday, when all he had to look forward to was another day of homelessness.

Sunday, however, was a celebration for Ward, Virginia Beach Mayor Meyers Oberndorf, whose efforts to find a home for the center were finally realized Sunday after nearly eight years of moving from site to site in Virginia Beach.

While the city owns the facility and Pickett helped obtain funding through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, the center's programs will be operated by Volunteers of America Chesapeake.

"This facility and the programs it will house are quintessential examples of the coming together of the public, private and religious sectors of the community to help solve a problem within that community," said William McKinney, VOA's chief executive officer.

"Let's face it; this is not the dedication of a symphony hall or an art museum; those are relatively easy to do. This is the dedication of a building to serve the homeless," he said. "This tests the mettle of any community."

It was a proud moment for Maloney, who shared ribbon-cutting duties with Oberndorf.

"We're here," said a beaming Maloney. "It's been an incredible roller-coaster ride, and we're so grateful to everyone in this room.



Photo by Matthew Shanley

CUT! Virginia Beach Mayor Meyers Oberndorf snips the ribbon opening the new Lighthouse Center for homeless.

And I can tell you the homeless are excited."

That's because, for the first time, the center gives the homeless a place to go for a variety of services at no cost to themselves like the daytime programs offering transportation, case management, support groups, and mental health and substance abuse counseling.

Showers and a personal care area, laundry facilities, phone and work space for clients, and several reception areas have been incorporated into the center's design along with office space, a conference room, large central activity room and kitchen.

"Thank goodness we found a hospitable location," Oberndorf said later. "Truly, this will be a beacon for those who have lost their way and are working to make their lives productive again."

Oberndorf also expected the residents of Virginia Beach to stand behind the sometimes controversial project, expected to cost approximately \$300,000.

"I think our citizens will be very supportive," she said. "It

comes from grass-roots support through the communities of faith."

The effect of the city's stamp of approval was not lost on others attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony, like the VOA's Dan Shain, who works with area churches to find shelter for the homeless.

"It's really important that the city take ownership of this building," he said. "In a sense, what they have done is to recognize homelessness as a real issue on the beach."

Perhaps all too real for Frederick Moore, one of a number of homeless people who visited the center to take in the new surroundings.

Moore, 37, first used the city shelter on Louisa Street in February 1996, and like Ward, sees the Lighthouse Center as a way out.

"It gives me a chance to lay down at night," he said. "They gave me transportation to get to the employment office to look for a job. It means a lot to me. Knowing I can come here makes you feel good about yourself."

order the right lab tests."

It was soon clear that Davidson and other members of the health department had developed the possible scenario from a well-thought-out plan. There were sick children and parents complaining of various symptoms to their "doctors," healthy children to check, patients calling on the phone, patient charts to be read, lab test results ready if the doctor ordered it, and the media to deal with.

Ashley and Courtney Cornwell were among the Windsor Oak students with complaints of cough, chest pain and runny noses. Their mother, Corrine, went with them to their doctor. Corrine later acknowledged the girls were "nervous because the information on their illness was scripted."

"However, their doctor relaxed and realized he couldn't rely on everything they said and asked more questions," she said.

The healthy kids weren't nervous at all, and chatted quietly as they waited to see the doctors.

"Our teachers selected us," said Haylie Diggis, a fourth grader.

"Because we are good students," chimed in another.

She and the other healthy students agreed the best thing about the epidemic was they were

missing class, but said it would probably fit in their health class. Many of the healthy and sick children also "wanna be" doctors when they grow up, although some "wanna be" actors.

"Doctors" Ankush Gosain and William Dozier also manned the phones in their "Cure-all Medical Practice." They answered patients' questions, offered advice, noted the symptoms and fired questions at their instructor, Dr. Flenner, infectious disease specialist at EVMS.

The "doctors" saw all their patients in one hour and then met as a group to compare notes and come up with a diagnosis. After a brief meeting with the whole group, Gosain and Dozier then met with medical reporters to discuss the possible epidemic.

To further complicate the situation, the health department and the PTA provided all the doctors with "brain food" or snacks to help them think as they compare notes. It wasn't long before the youths' faces lit up. Then, just as quickly, they looked puzzled. They also had to support their diagnosis with evidence, not just theory.

Everyone agreed the exercise was worthwhile and a great learning experience.

"It's neat to have education and health to do health education," said Linda Cadotte, communicable disease nursing supervisor with the health department.

The "doctors" had fun with disease, she said, "but we threw in some red herrings."

The doctors acknowledged they were stumped for a little while.

They suspected strep throat or a food-borne illness.

"Yeah, it was hard," said a normally smiling Matthew Fizer.

"It was fun, but it would have helped if we had more patients and more time."

It also probably would have helped if they actually saw the symptoms in real sick people. But it wasn't long before they came up with the diagnosis. It was an outbreak of influenza, that spread to all the students and parents who had gone to the Grand Illumination. Simple, but so complicated with all the different clues, and bear in mind the young doctors knew nothing until they started asking questions. Not bad for a few hours work and 2nd year medical students.

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"Yeah, it was hard," said a normally smiling Matthew Fizer.

"It was fun, but it would have helped if we had more patients and more time."

It also probably would have helped if they actually saw the symptoms in real sick people. But it wasn't long before they came up with the diagnosis. It was an outbreak of influenza, that spread to all the students and parents who had gone to the Grand Illumination. Simple, but so complicated with all the different clues, and bear in mind the young doctors knew nothing until they started asking questions. Not bad for a few hours work and 2nd year medical students.

Everyone agreed the exercise was worthwhile and a great learning experience.

"It's neat to have education and health to do health education," said Linda Cadotte, communicable disease nursing supervisor with the health department.

The "doctors" had fun with disease, she said, "but we threw in some red herrings."

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Beach FOP lauds top officers

The Virginia Beach Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police held an installation ceremony and dinner-dance Saturday night at their lodge on South Birchick Road. About 100 were in attendance.

Special guests included Ray Franklin of Louisville, Ky., the sergeant-at-arms for the national Grand Lodge, and Garth Wheeler, president of the Virginia State Lodge.

Virginia Beach Police Department detectives Terry Dugan and Adam Bracy and Drug

Enforcement Administration Special Agent Mike Kennedy were named Law Enforcement Officers of the Year for their narcotics investigation which confiscated more than \$5 million in cash, property and narcotics.

Garth Wheeler presided over the installation of the newly elected officers: Al Byrum, president; Dave Hewes, immediate past president; John Orr, vice president; J.J. DellaVecchio, secretary; Dickie Talbot, treasurer; Joe Vaseleck, guard; Frank Crayle, conductor;

Noah Dula, chaplain; and, John VanderHeiden, John Runge, Joe Oates, trustees. These officers will serve a one-year term.

Sam Thomson was named Virginia Beach FOP Member of the Year for his strong record of community work.

Dedicated to advancing the law enforcement profession and contributing to each local community, the Fraternal Order of Police is the nation's largest law enforcement organization with more than 250,000 members.



TOP HONORS. The Virginia Beach Fraternal Order of Police named its law enforcement officers of the year last week. Joining Virginia State Lodge President Garth Wheeler and Virginia Beach President Al Byrum, from left, are detectives Terry Dugan and Adam Bracy and Special Agent Mike Kennedy. Sam Thomson, far right, was named FOP Member of the Year.

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Comfort Inn awarded Gold Hospitality Award

The Comfort Inn Virginia Beach has received the Gold Hospitality Award for the fourth consecutive year from Choice Hotels International, parent company of the Comfort Inns and Comfort Suites chain.

The award is presented annually to hotels that exceed the rigid quality assurance standards of Choice Hotels. "This prestigious

award recognizes exceptional service, facilities and hospitality," said Dan Shoen, Comfort vice president and brand manager. Last year, Gold Hospitality Awards were presented to just six percent of the eligible hotels in the Choice Hotels system.

The Comfort Inn-Virginia Beach is owned and operated by Richardson Associates.

Craven accepts Governor's Award

Two Tidewater area residents have received the 1997 Governor's Awards for contributions to emergency medical services (EMS).

Dr. Richard A. Craven of Virginia Beach was recognized as the Outstanding Operational Medical Director and registered nurse Darleen S. Anderson of Norfolk received the award for the Nurse With Outstanding Contributions to EMS.

Dr. Randolph L. Gordon, commissioner, Virginia Department of Health (VDH), presented the awards recently on behalf of Gov. George Allen at the EMS Symposium in Norfolk.

Craven, operational medical director for the city of Virginia Beach, was honored for his regional, state and national contribution to EMS. He serves on the Tidewater EMS Council Board of Directors, State EMS Advisory Board, Virginia College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Emergency Physicians EMS Committee and as a faculty member at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

The Governor's award cited Craven for his "superior training standards that continually challenge pre-hospital care personnel and medical residents to seek new ways to improve the quality of care."

Anderson is vice president of



GREAT JOB! Dr. Richard Craven of Virginia Beach, left, holds the Governor's Award for Outstanding Emergency Medical Services Operational Medical Director. The honor was presented by Dr. Randolph L. Gordon, commissioner of the Virginia Department of Health, during the Virginia EMS Symposium in Norfolk.

Sentara Southside Hospital and its administrator at Sentara Leigh Hospital. She was recognized for her service on the EMS Advisory Board, Tidewater Emergency Medical Services Council Board of Directors, EMS Financial Assistance Review Committee and the EMS Public Information/Education Committee.

She was cited for successfully coordinating a two-year state level project that resulted in legislation to study trauma center funding.



'Tis the season

The Faculty Chorus at Unkhorn Park Elementary School is busy practicing to be part of the holiday program which will be held Monday at 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria. The teachers will appear as Russian bakers in the musical "The Nutcracker." Students in several second-grade classes will join the adults, along with the fourth- and fifth-grade chorus, to present the holiday entertainment. Polishing up their parts, from left, are Belle Robinson, Jackie Desoffy and Janet Snook.

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School children learn 'Tis the Season' for ballet

Tattercoats Ltd. is presenting its ninth annual original Christmas ballet, "Tis the Season," this week at the Contemporary Arts Center of Virginia.

Tattercoats Ltd. is a non-profit organization founded by Tom and Gail Barnes in 1979 for the advancement of the arts among and for children. The husband and wife duo work together as a creative team. Gail writes, directs and choreographs a new ballet each year while Tom provides artistic direction for the production by designing the elaborate costumes and set. Gail's training includes education at Harvard Business School, the New York City Ballet Company and the Harvard Dance Company.

She currently teaches more than 100 children in weekly ballet classes. Her husband has training in dance, drama, graphic design and fine arts from the University of Georgia, Harvard University and Regent University. Tom also teaches art and drama while working as a freelance artist. Together, their unique blend of talents has produced original ballet productions in South Carolina, Georgia, and, for the past nine years, in the Hampton Roads community. Norfolk resident Tiffany Antony collaborated in this year's original choreography.

"Tis the Season" follows Tattercoats tradition of children's ballets in beauty of design, precision of dance, and truth of message. This year's cast consists of 40 members ranging in age from 5 years to 40+ something, from Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk and Petersburg and one member and the producer, Sheila Nattermann, who travel from Cincinnati, Ohio to participate in the production.

This one-hour production consists of three vignettes reminiscent of Christmases past which include tree trimmings, decking the halls, festive parties



ON THEIR TOES. Thousands of school children will see Tattercoats' production of "Tis the Season" this week at the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia. Leah Martin and Stephanie Sandlin perform in the holiday production.

and an exciting new nativity dance with 14 beautiful angels. The dance includes tapping toy soldiers, magical dolls and snow flakes on pointe and classical ballet being done by townspeople, street urchins and even St. Nicolas. This year Tom Barnes dances as "Poppy."

As in the years past, approximately 2,000 school children are attending during the week from all over the Hampton Roads area. School shows are 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Monday through Friday through Dec. 12. Public shows are Saturday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 2 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14.

Tickets are still available for all shows for \$7 at the Harvest Company Bookstores, Providence Square or Volvo Parkway or by calling 498-2627.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Beach Democratic Club will hold its annual Christmas covered dish party on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. at 2301-104 Beach Haven Dr. Members, guests and Democratic friends are invited to attend. For further information, call 467-2441 or 481-3865.

The Adam Thoroughgood Chapter of the National Daughters of the American Revolution will hold its Christmas luncheon meeting on Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. at Westminster Canterbury, 5100 Shore Dr. Georgia Christie,

elementary social studies coordinator for the Virginia Beach Schools, will be the speaker. For more information, call Jo Ann Mathias, 437-9131.

The Hampton Roads Internet Association will meet Dec. 18 at the Virginia Beach Central Library, in the auditorium on the first floor at 7 p.m. The topic is "A visit from teamsanta@christmas.com". Take a tour of this seasonal web site. There will also be a Q and A "Getting Online" session at 6:30 p.m. Call 437-4302 for more information.

Point O'View Elementary will hold its annual "Breakfast With Santa" from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 13 in the school cafeteria.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Linda S. Berry, Virginia Wesleyan College's assistant to the dean of students for multicultural affairs was presented with the Louis G. Gregory Humanitarian Award recently at a banquet in her honor.

She was given this award for her distinguished service to humanity in the field of race unity by the Bahá'í of Hampton Roads. Since 1995, Berry has contributed many hours to the development of racial harmony on the campus of Virginia Wesleyan College and the Hampton Roads community.

Keisha Haye has been named Glenwood Elementary School's 1997-98 reading teacher of the year. She has taught for 24 years and has been at Glenwood for the past eight. Haye has been a reading resource teacher for the previous two. She holds a master's degree with an emphasis in reading and has taught every grade level as RRT.

Rene Perez-Lopez, vice president for information systems and director of the library, received the American Red Cross Volunteer Recognition Award for his 20 years of service as chairman of the Tidewater chapter of the American Red Cross Langone Bank.

During his tenure as chairman, Perez-Lopez helped compile a book of volunteers who are available to translate for non-English speaking individuals in the Hampton Roads community who find themselves in emergency situations. Many of these volunteer translators are available on a permanent 24-hour, on-call basis. They hail from all cities in Hampton Roads. The

Tidewater chapter of the American Red Cross Language Bank is able to provide translation services for a total of 52 languages.

Two Cox High School teachers, Mike Videll and Joanne Rowe presented their research on the 50th anniversary of the Maryland Association of Science Teachers. Videll and Rowe participated in a year-long study through Mount Saint Mary's College and the National Science Foundation which developed mathematical modeling techniques to solve real world situations.

Along with six other educators from the Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania area, Videll, a science teacher, and Rowe, a math teacher, monitored the piping Plover, a threatened species of shorebird.

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Notice

Auction: 1984 CHEVY CAVALIER WAGON/RED
Serial: 1G1AC357P2E717442
Auction Date: 12/29/97
Time: 11:00 a.m. at Tidewater Accept. Corp., 7000 N. Military Hwy Norfolk, Va 23518.

Tidewater Accept. Corp reserves the right to bid.

50-5
112-12

Public Notice

Auction: 1987 MERCURY TO-PAZ/WHITE
Serial: 1MEBM3355HK65544
Auction Date: 12/29/97
Time: 11:00 a.m. at Tidewater Accept. Corp., 7000 N. Military Hwy Norfolk, Va 23518.

Tidewater Accept. Corp reserves the right to bid.

50-5
112-12

Public Notice

The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department
Worcester Division
Docket No. 97AD0052-GT
Citation
M.G.L.C. 119 § 23(C)
In the Matter of Paula Totman,
minor
To: Paul Totman, 113 Holland

Dr. Virginia Beach, Virginia
A petition has been presented to said court by The Department of Social Services, 340 Main Street, Suite 575, Worcester, MA 01608 praying that said court finds that said child is under the age of eighteen and is without proper guardianship due to the death, unavailability, incapacity or unfitness of the parent or guardian.

Any decree under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 119, Section 23(C), gives custody of the child to the Department of Social Services and authorizes the Department of Social Services or an agency commissioned by the Department to determine the child's place of abode, medical care, and education; to control the visits to the child; to give consents to enlisting, marriages and other contracts requiring parental consent.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT WORCESTER before TEN O'CLOCK in the forenoon (10:00 A.M.) on December 30, 1997.

Signed by: Armond R. Caplan
Date: 12/5/97

50-4
112-12

Public Notice

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ARMOND AND ROSE CAPLAN FOUNDATION

TAKE NOTICE, that the Annual Report of the above Foundation for the taxable year ending September 30, 1997 as required by § 6056 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, is available for inspection at the principal office at the Foundation, 500 E. Main Street Suite 1424, Norfolk, Virginia 23510, during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 days after the publication of the notice of its availability. Requests for inspection should be made to the undersigned Principal Manager at the Office as above stated.

Signed by: Armond R. Caplan
Date: 12/5/97

50-3
112-12

Public Notice

SHOW CAUSE ORDER

It appears that a report of the account of William R. Goss, Executor of the Estate of Gale T. Goss, deceased, and of the debts and demands against her estate has been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that six (6) months have elapsed since the qualification, on motion of William R. Goss, Executor, IT IS ORDERED that the creditors of, and all others interested in, the Estate do show cause, if any they can, on the 1st day of January, 1998, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, before this Court at its courtroom, against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Gale T. Goss, deceased, to the residuary beneficiaries without requiring refunding bonds.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Show Cause Order be published once a week for two successive weeks in The Virginia Beach Sun, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Certified to be a TRUE COPY of record in my custody, J. CURTIS FRUIT, CLERK, Circuit Court, Virginia Beach, VA
By: Pat K. Bennett
Kirkland M. Kelley, p.q.
Kirkland M. Kelley, Esquire
Kaufman & Canales, P.C.
P.O. Box 3037
Norfolk, VA 23514-3037

50-2
212-19

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ALAN AND ESTHER FLEDER FOUNDATION

TAKE NOTICE, that the Annual Report of the above Foundation for the taxable year ending September 30, 1997 as required by § 6056 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, is available for inspection at the principal office at the Foundation, 500 E. Main Street Suite 1424, Norfolk, Virginia 23510, during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 days after the publication of the notice of its availability. Requests for inspection should be made to the undersigned Principal Manager at the Office as above stated.

Signed by: Lawrence Fleder, Treasurer

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF TIME-SHARE ESTATES
AT FOUR SAILS RESORT
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA
In the execution of deeds of trust from the Grantors described below (the "Deeds of Trust"), each of which were recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia (the "Clerk's Office"), at the Deed Book and Page numbers described below, default having been made in the payment of the respective debts secured, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at 1100 One Columbus Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462-5722, on December 26, 1997, at 9:30 a.m., the Time-Share Estates listed below, located at Four Sails Resort, 3301 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, Virginia, and more particularly described in the Deeds of Trust listed below.

GRANTORS	TIME-SHARE ESTATE NO.	DATED	BOOK/PAGE
Mary Ellen Bennard	PH3/29	07/01/92	3149/1530
James A. Denman	801/46	12/23/93	3381/0845
Eugenia L. Brooks	801/46	12/23/93	3381/0845
Walter G. Billips	801/21	01/23/93	3286/0779
Deborah J. Billips	801/21	01/23/93	3286/0779
Kenneth D. Butler, Sr.	905/10	05/02/92	3129/0537
Theresa R. Butler	905/10	05/02/92	3129/0537
Clyde D. Gelney	1103/01	08/19/94	3453/2200
Gloria Gainey	1103/01	08/19/94	3453/2200
Clinton K. Randall	1105/08	03/21/94	3404/0216
Margie A. Randall	1105/08	03/21/94	3404/0216
Dorothy V. Robinson	1105/08	03/21/94	3404/0216
Ford R. Salus	601/29	08/01/80	2960/1881
Juanita T. Salus	601/29	08/01/80	2960/1881
Thomas A. Steeney	901/13	08/24/92	3181/1130
Tamara M. Brownell	901/13	08/24/92	3181/1130
Teron E. Whitehead	505/13	10/26/91	3072/0484
Lies M. Whitehead	505/13	10/26/91	3072/0484
Fernim Correa, Jr.	PH/52	07/08/93	3318/0807
Tina M. Bussiere	PH/52	07/08/93	3318/0807
Edmund Gehrmann	PH/30(2)	03/19/92	3085/2058
A Kyong Gehrmann	PH/30(2)	03/19/92	3085/2058
William R. Dabney, Sr.	503/31	05/01/92	3129/0509
Fannie R. Dabney	503/31	05/01/92	3129/0509
Ira C. Lutz	OPH3/21	08/17/92	3190/1719
Ruth A. Lutz	OPH3/21	08/17/92	3190/1719
Foster E. Montgomery	702/08	08/22/91	3049/0218
Joel Maria Montgomery	702/08	08/22/91	3049/0218
Shirley A. Penn	1202/40	10/17/92	3190/1733

The sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate including the Project and Time-Share Instrument for Four Sails Resort, dated August 9, 1988, recorded in the Clerk's Office in Deed Book 2762, page 1291, as amended and restated.

Terms: Cash. Settlement within 10 days of sale. A bidder's deposit not to exceed \$100.00 may be required.

Wilson L. Rivers
Joseph R. Mayes
Trustees
For Information Contact:
Wilson L. Rivers
Joseph R. Mayes
Wolcott, Rivers, Wheary, Basnight & Kelly, P.C.
1100 One Columbus Center
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462
(757) 497-6633

Hands on learning

Bill Merino, a retired teacher, recently demonstrated sandpaper carving to fifth graders at Windsor Woods Elementary School. Merino, shown with youngsters Tiffany Rivera and Olivia Weir, provided each student with a side relief of a hound dog complete with contour lines. Students rounded them, finished the detailing and finally sanded or painted the cutouts during Robyn Vasile's art class.





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LIFE IS SHORT. SHARE YOURS WITH SOMEONE! 1-900-285-9119. Ext. 7455. \$2.99 per min. 18 yrs. Serv-U 619-645-8434.

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Budget director reports strong city finances

Continued From Page 1

■ The aging of the city's housing stock. It's important to keep the housing stock healthy because the city has become more dependent upon the real estate tax to fund the operations of the government. Even so, the residential portion generates more service costs than the business portion generates.

■ The inadequacy of state aid for education. Virginia ranks 44th, well below the national average, in providing state revenue support to education.

■ The preemption of local revenues by the state. An example is a proposal to eliminate the car tax, the city's second largest local revenue source. Block noted also that the expected natural growth in local tax revenue over the forecast period will not be sufficient to sustain current spending trends, particularly in the operation of schools.

While non-enterprise/utility revenues available for operations can be expected to increase by approximately 5 percent, expenditures can be expected to increase at a 6 percent rate for the city and 6.3 percent for schools, enough to create deficits.

Block said the city needs to be aware of state aid and the preemption of local revenues by the state. "Virginia is beginning to follow a trend that began 20 years ago in California," he said. The city will be made more dependent on the state.

A major concern is the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) data on migration. Lower-income immigration is "not a consequence we like," said Block.

He said that the school population is beginning to grow at a rate of one percent or 700 to 800 children a year, but "the children are coming to us from households that associate them to disadvantaged families."

Also, he said, having to depend on real estate for the bulk of the city's revenues is "like being an investor who is not diversified." The city also will have to pay \$3 million more in a Virginia Retirement Service fund increase. In fiscal 1995/96 the city's contribution rate was 9.77 percent of payroll. This year it is 11.88 percent and in FY 1999/00 it will rise to 15.93 percent. Then growth will continue to 18 percent based only on the continued phase-in of the COLA (cost of living adjustment) accounting changes.

Beach bond rating good, director says

Continued From Page 1

The fund balance provides a reserve for emergencies but also provides a positive factor when rating agencies consider bond ratings for the city. On one bond issue, Phillips said, the city's high ratings give the city millions of dollars.

"That's a good return (maybe \$14 million on several bond issues) on an investment of \$60 million," remarked Councilman Louis R. Jones.

Phillips said that all funds that are over and above the target are used for one-time expenditures. The excess for the year was \$2.7 million.

Councilwoman Barbara Henley said that there is an impression among some that the fund balance is a slush fund. Actually only what is left over at the end of one year is the surplus.

Phillips said that \$60 million would be a lot of excess in one year. The fund balance, she said, is fiscally prudent.

She said the amount the city receives from the personal property tax exceeds the fund balance. General property taxes, including both real estate and personal property, account for the greatest source of revenues in the city's \$409,639,000 budget — \$298,295,000 or 36.5 percent of the total. The new state administration has promised to phase out the car tax and replace the funds with other revenues.

The school system not only made up the deficit of \$11,577,582 that was on the books in 1996, but came out with a surplus of \$7,391,169 which has been committed.

Phillips also explained that one

The school system faces similar concerns.

Finance Director Patricia Phillips said that the city has an unfunded liability in the fund of \$40 million which will take 30 years to satisfy. The catch up is necessary because of the accounting change barring the cash flow funding of COLA increases, a more moderate projection of interest earnings, a maturation of the city's workforce and a slowdown in new hires.

The state uses a fixed contribution plan, which pays roughly half salary on retirement, but councilman W.W. Harrison Jr. said that many corporations have elected to get away from fixed contributions because it is unaffordable.

Block said that he had not received a forecast from the school system but worked with published information. He said that the school system should receive more in impact aid this year.

One of the assumptions for the budget is the continuation of existing services and programs for the schools (and the city as well), a projected average student enrollment growth of .9 percent per year for the forecast period, based on an average ratio of new teachers for 18 students plus support costs.

The city also has assumed 50 additional personnel per year for expansion and new programs.

Block has titled his forecast "Changes for a New Century-Part II" to emphasize the continuity with the report presented last year.

For budget strategy Block emphasizes "fiscal sustainability" against which programs and policies should be measured.

In addition to Lake Gaston, other pluses outlined in the forecast include:

The expansion of Oceana which will provide over 5,000 new jobs at the base, over \$226 million of payroll and a spinoff employment estimated by the Hampton Roads Planning District at almost 1,200.

Strong economic development efforts that paid off.

Per capita expenditures at the Beach are lower than expenditures in other comparable cities. The city has increased per capita spending in key service areas, particularly education where the per capita spending amounts to \$913.70 or 58.2 percent of the total.

Priorities of government in Virginia Beach are related to education, Block said.

Make it a 'country Christmas'

Continued From Page 1

Although close-up Long presents as a very young Santa Claus, he speaks with Santa's ancient wisdom about children and the role that fantasy plays in their lives.

"Santa's imaginary, but he's real for children," Long said. "When kids get a hug from Santa, for one moment they get a break from the hustle and bustle, and it means a lot to them."

Long remembers one little boy who was about 3 but talked like he was only 2.

"And all he wanted from me was for me to say 'Ho, ho, ho.' He just kept wanting me to say that. I learned later that he'd been deaf until that year, and that was the first time he'd been able to hear Santa."

The Spectrum puppets weren't the only ones on hand Saturday. Willie, a fantasy creature that somewhat resembles a warm, fuzzy serpent was there with his clown, Zappie. Zappie, otherwise known as Ed Kemper of Virginia Beach, said that he performs as a clown and ventriloquist at birthday parties, picnics, graduations and other events.

"I've been a clown all my life," he added, explaining that he developed his clown routine and taught himself to be a ventriloquist. Willie, he added, was the smartest member of the duo and "very serious", but Zappie's smart enough to know how to stay warm even in a clown's costume.

"I have layers of stuff on underneath this," he said.

Local merchants, too, appeared pleased at the holiday shopping crowd and appeared anxious to tell visitors about their wares. "We'll be open all winter," said Dion Mosley of Creekmore's, which is now selling fall produce including apples, collards, peanuts and pecans. For holiday shoppers looking for an unusual present, Creekmore's can provide a variety of candies and jellies and local honey.

"A lot of the local people here use the honey to relieve allergies and colds," Mosley said.

Other local goodies available at the market include herbal blends and vinegar's and herb plants at Linda's Garden and a variety of crafts, fresh wreaths and live Christmas trees.

"We have fresh cut flowers and gifts with a nautical or country

theme," said Judy Chapman of Chapman's Flowers and Gifts. Her main stock in trade this time of the year, though, is evergreen wreaths and bows.

Marschelder, who organized Saturday's event as a fund-raiser for the Children's Performance Workshop, said that she

organized Saturday's events as a fund-raiser. "I don't have any specific goal in mind for this event," she said, "but I want to raise \$50,000 by April so that we can bring the performance into area schools without charging them."



SEASON SMILES. Mette Long and Lindsey Hall were delighted by the puppets at the Farmers' Market country Christmas celebration and grand illumination last weekend.

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News in brief

Rockin' lock-in

Teens aged 13-17 can rock all night long at a New Year's Eve Rockin' Lock In on Dec. 31. Doors will be locked from 10:30 p.m. through 6:30 a.m. on January 1 at Princess Anne Recreation Center. Enjoy dancing, a casino type game room complete with prize auction, air games, tournaments and food at the best New Year's Eve Celebration in town for teens only. Young adults from the PLAY (Promoting Leisure Activities for Youth) Team will be supervising the evening's activities. This event is sponsored by Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation and held in partnership with Geico, Hannaford Brothers and Nabisco. Register at any Community Recreation Center by Dec. 19. Cost is \$10 plus a \$2 transportation fee if needed. For information, call 471-5884.

Pocahontas play

High Frequency Wavelengths and Project Create will present a performing arts workshop for children and adults during an intensive 10-week workshop that will conclude with four performances of the dance/theatre production "Pocahontas." Artistic Director Marilyn Danzil will begin production on Jan. 10 and continue through March 29. Performances will be open to the public at the Kempsville Recreation Center Theatre on Fridays, March 20 and 27 at 7 p.m. and Sundays, March 22 and 29 at 2 p.m. Additional performances will be announced upon demand. Participants can register by mail or drop-off at any Virginia Beach Recreation Centers by requesting #17706 or 17716. Cost is \$200. For information, call 422-1240, TDD 471-5839.

A running start

Independence Middle School is planning its annual 5K race and 1-mile run/walk to be held March 7 at the school. The faculty, staff, students, PTA members, adoptive partners and people and businesses in the community surrounding the school are encouraged to participate. It is not too early to put it on your calendar. Sponsors and prizes are being sought. A sponsor may contribute any amount from \$100 to \$300. In return the business is promoted on all advertising for the run on flyers, T-shirts and race numbers. It is a good opportunity to promote business and support the local community and middle school at the same time. Contact Kellie Jordan or Debra Angellotti, directors, at 460-7500 for further information on becoming a sponsor or donating prizes.

Twelfth Night

The tree may be down and all the holiday lights turn off, but Christmas is not officially over until Twelfth Night at the Francis Land House. The early Virginians celebrated during the 12 days after Christmas. Their season ended with a big celebration on sixth of January, the 12th day of Christmas. Add the perfect finale to your holiday season by reliving the magic and splendor of a traditional 18th-century Twelfth Night at the historic Francis Land House in Virginia Beach. Join us on Tuesday, Jan. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Step back in time and meet Francis Land and his plantation family. Dance with the Williamsburg Heritage Dance Ensemble, enjoy music provided by Bob Clark on the dulcimer and by the Princess Anne High School Madrigals. Partake of Twelfth Night Cake provided by the Friends of the Francis Land House. The evening will feature the traditional burning of the Christmas greens around a bonfire with cider toasts to the new year.

Soccer meeting

Staff from the Virginia Beach Department of Parks and Recreation and the Hampton Roads Soccer Council will host a public meeting on Thursday, Jan. 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Landstown Elementary School, 2212 Recreation Dr. to receive comments and answer questions on the issue of parking lot screening for the soccer complex. For additional information, call the Department of Parks and Recreation, 563-1100.

Pier hours

Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation will extend the normal operating period of the Little Island Fishing Pier until the end of December weather permitting as a public service to make the pier available to area fishermen. The pier normally closed Oct. 31 for the winter season. The Little Island Fishing Pier extended hours will run from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, during regular park operating hours. There will be no additional user fee for the extended period of operation. For further information, call Parks Operations and Services, 563-1100.

Council unanimously OK's Rudee Loop property option

By Lee Cahill
City Council Reporter

City Council Tuesday by unanimous vote agreed to purchase an option on property at Rudee Loop which city officials anticipate will set them on the course of world-class economic development.

The 2.73 acres of property available under the option is located at the southern end of the oceanfront resort area at 1st and Atlantic Avenue where the Lighthouse Restaurant is located.

The property, owned by Bob Herman is adjacent to 3.11 acres of city-owned property which with the Herman property will give the city 5.837 acres of prime oceanfront property.

The non-refundable two-year option will cost \$205,150 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with funding coming from the Tourism Growth Investment Fund which includes taxes from hotel rooms, meals and amusements and is earmarked specifically for tourism enhancements.

The option will allow the economic development department to market the entire parcel to potential developers. The parcel can support potential development of a four-star hotel, a conference center and a parking garage.

If the city exercises the option, it may purchase the property for \$6,147,200 plus \$16,800 a month beginning January 1998 until closing. If the city exercises

the option at the end of the two-year option period, the total purchase price would be \$6.5 million. The option agreement is between the city and Robert Herman Properties, L.L.C. Herman Inc. and Robert Herman.

Jim Ricketts, director of convention and visitor development, said this is the best opportunity that the city has had in years to pursue a higher level of quality development at the oceanfront resort area.

Earlier this year, a study made by David C. Petersen of Price Waterhouse, recommended against the city's pursuing its dreams of becoming a world class convention and tourism center, citing unavailability of hotel quantity and quality and the congestion

during the tourist season among other disadvantages.

The city expects that the impact of a hotel and conference center at this site shows revenues of almost \$1 million in direct revenues to the city the first year, rising to \$1.8 million by year 10.

The street right-of-way would be incorporated into the development plans eliminating the need to improve the street, avoiding a cost of \$2 million.

However, any interests in the property other than a conference hotel will be considered if they conform with the Oceanfront Resort Area Concept Plan for the area.

Holiday dinner is a blessing to the community

By Matthew Shanley
Correspondent

Mary Johnson scanned the crowd of nearly 4,000 people filling the Virginia Beach Pavilion for Operation Blessing's 16th annual Christmas dinner and saw something of herself.

The dinner last week, a combined effort of The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), Hampton Roads churches and local volunteers, benefited the area's needy, disabled, homeless and elderly population by providing a traditional holiday dinner with all the trimmings, as well as a bag of groceries to take home after the festivities were over.

Operation Blessing, 21 businesses and 11 foundations donated \$16,779 to sponsor the event, while CBN employees raised \$60,677 of their own money to help offset the cost of the dinner.

Johnson, a Virginia Beach resident who was among the more than 500 volunteer workers, placidly stood at the end of one of the long tables with Chesapeake resident Bruce Vernon helping to direct traffic as guests slowly filled into the pavilion to eat. Listen to a few songs from national recording artist Shirley Caesar, and hear a special message from CBN founder Pat Robertson.

"You don't know how close you are to this," said Johnson. "Nobody knows."

Johnson does.

At one time, her husband was facing a 20-year prison sentence, she didn't have enough money for a lawyer, and she was unemployed. Money was tight, and food was getting scarce.

"We were literally in financial ruin," she said. "Everything was gone. We went for months not knowing what was going to happen. You find out where people's hearts are when you're in that condition."

With some help from an area church, Johnson got back on her feet, and started working for CBN as a television counselor seven years ago. The Operation Blessing

See HOLIDAY, Page 4

Fire company's Christmas project is right on track

By Bob Flueggeger
Correspondent

To some local citizens who have visited Fire Company 10's Christmas train show on Providence Road, Virginia Beach's firefighters are certainly on the right track.

Engine Captain Dennis Keane and Master Firefighter Keen Black jointly came up with the idea for a Christmas train exhibit. Both Keane and Black are assigned to Engine 23 at Fire Company 10.

Over the last four years, the interest of the public in the elaborate display has increased dramatically, this year the appeal has been phenomenal.

"Originally, it was just something to pay back the citizens for their support. It was something that we could do to show that we appreciate the citizens backing us," said Black.

"Initially," he explained, "we started out to do it for the families of firefighters only."

When they proposed the idea of a Christmas train exhibit to then Chief Harry Diezel, the chief suggested inviting the general public, too. Their initial modest proposal snowballed into an annual affair that attracts thousands.

"Keane and I worked on the same shift," explained Dennis Keane. "And we got interested in trains and joined the Tidewater Big Train Operators Club. One Sunday afternoon we brought our trains in to set them up, because there's a large area out there," he elaborated.

At first, the rest of the firefighters on the shift scoffed at the idea of trains in the fire house.

"Once we set them up, everybody was out there wanting to play with them," Keane smiled.



RIGHT ON TRACK. Master Firefighter Keen Black, left, and Engine Capt. Dennis Keane came up with an idea that has snowballed into an annual event.

One day when Black and Keane were riding down Providence Road in Engine 23, the idea of a Christmas train show crossed their minds.

"The department had gotten bigger, and everybody had lots of things going on. It would be a neat way to get us all together again," he recalled.

Keane also acknowledged Diezel's support. "He's always been supportive of everything we've done in the department. Not just the train show for kids, but when it comes to public relations which is certainly an important aspect of what we do," he said.

"Traditionally, over the years, fire departments have had closed doors, and we're opening them up again so that people can come in and see what we do," Keane observed. The public has responded to the "open door policy" by figuratively knocking down those doors with an incredible demonstration of support for both the show and the people responsible for it.

Both Keane and Black were quick to acknowledge that the train show has grown with the help of the Tidewater Big Train Operators Club and with the

See FIRE, Page 4

Land advocates' efforts yield dividends

Back Bay supporters work tirelessly to extend refuge, preserve the land



By Jane Rowe
Correspondent

Molly Brown remembers that when she was a young girl growing up on a West Virginia farm her father refused to sell the black walnut trees growing on his land.

This fall Brown was heavily involved in a successful attempt to save Cypress trees growing in the Virginia Beach lowlands.

Brown helped convince the United States Congress that Back Bay Wildlife Refuge needed \$2 million to extend its borders to low-lying areas on the north side of Back Bay. Refuge officials hope to buy about 1,700 acres from willing sellers, including one tract near Hell's Point Creek that has a growth of mammoth Bald Cypress trees.

As president of the Friends of Back Bay, Brown has been involved in the refuge's land acquisition each year since

it began in 1990, and she's seen the refuge grow from its original 5,000 acres to almost 9,000. Every fall she travels to Washington to speak before a subcommittee of the House of Representatives, and this year the refuge's \$2 million grant was among the largest of those distributed to 36 national parks and wildlife refuges across the country.

Her father, Brown said, is the reason she became active in environmental causes.

He loved the land and was interested in caring for it, she added.

"He was always talking about new techniques for soil conservation. And I remember that he had black walnut trees on his land. People were always asking him to chop the trees down, because they wanted the wood from them, but he wouldn't sell them."

See BACK, Page 4

TEAMWORK. Molly Brown and Cheryl Petticrew make volunteering at Back Bay Wildlife Refuge a family affair. This year they helped refuge officials acquire \$2 million for land purchases to expand the borders.

Commentary

ROAD RULE: PLAY IT SAFE

Hassle-free holiday travel

Home for the holidays. There's nothing like it. Then again, there is nothing like holiday road travel and its many headaches. If a 600-mile car trip sounds a bit overwhelming this season, AAA of New Jersey has a few hints and travel tips to make this holiday getaway one to remember:

- Plan the route ahead of time with the help of directions and maps.

- Contact the police or sheriff's office to inquire about a house watch. Many agencies provide a perimeter check of your home while you are away. Remember to put a temporary hold on mail and newspaper delivery.

- Make sure you are well-rested before you leave. Stop every few hours to re-energize, especially if traveling with children.

- Dress in comfortable, loose clothing.

- Check to see that all passengers are buckled up properly. Children ages 12 and under should travel in the back seat and be secured in a child safety seat or with lap and shoulder belts.

- Pack an emergency kit for the road. It should include jumper cables, flashlight with fresh batteries, blankets, flare or reflective triangle, first aid kit, small bag or sand or abrasive material, cloth or roll of paper towels, ice scraper and a small shovel.

- If children are along, pack books or small toys to occupy them during the trip. Let them choose a radio station or bring along a tape or CD player with headphones.

- Travel with a cellular phone, especially when driving off the beaten track.

Holiday road trips don't have to be a hassle. Just play it safe and smart and expect smooth roads ahead. — V.E.H.

SEASONAL CELEBRATING

Safety first

In less than a week Santa is scheduled to make his annual visit marking Christmas 1997. Meanwhile, African-Americans will observe Kwanzaa and the Hebrew faith will celebrate its annual Festival of Lights, Hanukkah. As each December rolls around, excitement among both the young and old builds in anticipation of these celebrated days.

Before Christmas arrives, most people will have already purchased and decorated a centerpiece of the holiday tradition — the tree. Cut from the woods, trees can quickly become a dry, brittle fire hazard. Sparkling lights strung around the tree, on the house or in the yard can be just as deadly. Here are a few simple tips to keep the holidays happy and safe:

- Make sure your Christmas tree is fresh. Shredded needles are a sign of a dry tree.

- Keep your tree fresh by constantly replenishing its water.

- Never smoke around the tree or flammable decorations.

- Never place a tree so that it blocks an exit.

- Place trees away from direct sources of heat, such as heaters and vents.

- Always unplug lights and electric candles before going to bed.

- Keep real candles in sturdy holders and never place them near combustibles, such as curtains.

- Avoid hanging stockings near an open flame.

- Never burn wrapping paper in the fireplace. This is a major cause of chimney fires.

Enjoy the lights, sights and sounds of the seasons. Just do it safely — and live to see New Year's 1998.

TIME OF GIVING

Hunters can help

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries estimates that 200,000 deer will be harvested this season. Deer hunters with a generous heart and a full freezer can give those who are less fortunate a reason to be thankful this holiday season.

Hunters who would like to help the needy can donate deer to the Hunters for the Hungry program, which helps feed thousands of Virginians every year. The program raises funds to pay for professional processing of meat, then gives it to food banks, churches and soup kitchens statewide.

The goal for the program this year is to process 150,000 pounds of venison. Since the program started in 1991, it has provided 500,000 pounds of meat to feed the less fortunate.

Anyone interested in donating deer or money for the processing can call 1-800-352-4868 and show that hunters have heart.



All I want for Christmas

I've grown impatient with the hypocrisy regarding slavery, and I find it particularly objectionable just before Christmas. I'm tired of hearing the reputations of the Virginia gentry slammed merely because they happen to own slaves.

I'm no Christmas hypocrite. I freely admit it! The gift of a slave would make a fabulous Christmas present. If I had the chance or the good fortune, I'd love to own a slave. So would any other red-blooded American alive today.

Oh, I've heard the arguments against owning them, and I'll grant those contentions that first-rate vassals are very expensive, occasionally temperamental and require some degree of attention. True! All of it. Yet where would I be without them?

Imagine owning another strong, mindless brute that would willingly and without question undertake necessary tasks that I might consider too laborious or distasteful to handle personally. I must have another slave for Christmas. Black or white, it doesn't matter. Yellow or red, who cares? Creed or color are non-issues as far as I'm concerned. Even national origin is superfluous.

The essential issues are service, status and satisfaction.

Whether we're willing to acknowl-

It is mechanical slavery that seems to be the rage these days.

edge it or not slavery is more widespread than ever — especially in the United States of America. Much of our citizenry seems oblivious to the fact that this "peculiar institution" continues to thrive in the land of the free. In spite of amendments and the civil rights legislation, slavery is very much alive and well in our nation which probably has John Brown, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frederick Douglass spinning in the graves. All are not free! Surprise!

Of course, human bondage has almost been eliminated in the U.S. — if paying the taxman is overlooked.

It is mechanical slavery that seems to be the rage these days. These mechanical-electronic servants can be expensive. They can be temperamental and they all require some degree of maintenance.

My most valuable slave cost me over \$12,000 — and I got a great deal at that. He came from Japan, but you'd never know it just to look at him. His name is Toyota, and he faithfully takes me anywhere that I want to go and at anytime. Of course, I'm assuming that Toyota is a male.

Actually I've never bothered to check — and I really have no idea how to go about investigating the matter. Toyota has been dependable which is probably because he doesn't drink very much. When he's worn out, I'll probably give him to my son or free him altogether.

Voyager, a rather matronly sort,

has been with me for over 10 years, and I just haven't the heart to get rid of the old girl. She's part of the family. Even though I haven't neglected or abused her — I've given her new shoes and tightened her belts — she still leaks and dribbles a bit which is somewhat embarrassing. But she's been faithful, too. Bless her heart!

Then there's Craftman, who opens my marriage door. His predecessor, who had the same name, failed me once too often; I ordered him removed from his elevated position and tossed into the trash barrel where he was salvaged by a roving electrician who gave him a new lease on life. I was shocked to learn he still works from time to time.

Of course, my wife has her servants too. They tend to domestic chores — the laundry, the dishes and food. Two servants named Kenmore tend to the laundry. While Whirlpool does a commendable job with the dishes, she lets out an insatiable groan from time to time. I tighten her belt, but it might leave stretch marks. And, of course, Amana sees to the time.

Some folks may think that owning mechanical bondsmen is a moral issue — particularly during the Christmas season. Their contention is that the practice is inherently evil.

They say that they despise living in luxury at the expense of others, and that those who depend upon servants are lazy — even slothful. Some might, given half a chance, deny their God-given right to own slaves. It's un-American!

I'd sure like another slave for Christmas. Maybe I'd name him John Deer or Lawn Boy. A servant like that might be just the thing for a man who has it all. But enough of this idle talk!

Spartacus, hand me that remote.

Gee, thanks.

At the next register, same store, I encountered the same situation. She called Evan, too. He gave his OK. She told him to call the credit department (as the first clerk had) so I wouldn't have to keep going through this. As much as I don't want to "male bash," I must. He just wouldn't make the call. Finally, I called him.

"Hey, ya'll keep waking me from my nap," he snapped.

Trying not to snap myself, I explained that I was doing his holiday shopping in hectic, harried, horrendous crowds. In turn, he was aggravated that I would bother him by asking to make a single call.

Finally, I marched up to the credit department and cleared the situation.

The point is this. I truly believe women take 99.5 percent of the responsibility for the holidays. We do it cheerfully, for the most part, with expectation of little in return.

But I believe that 1997 is the year that we should rebel. We should take off our aprons, say "no" to making cookies, refuse to wrap another gift and, yes, even make the men do the shopping.

I bet you it would be one heck of a holiday!

So men, I beg you, be good to your wife, your mother, your girlfriend or whatever female figure is responsible for your "merry Christmas." Give her a holiday helping hand.

You might just be rewarded under the mistletoe, not a bad place to find yourself come Dec. 25.

Merely Christmas and happy Hanukkah, everyone, but particularly the women. You earned it.

A potpourri of the outrageous and distasteful

This week's column will be a potpourri of some of the outrageous and incredible things that I have read about recently.

First, there was a picture of Dennis Rodman naked from the waist up with his arms held over his head exposing the hairs under his armpits with white milk on his top lip. This ad is supposed to be a testimonial why milk is essential to his diet, as if I give a damn. Now if seeing a freak with colored hair and white milk on his lips is supposed to make me like milk, then the advertiser failed miserably. In fact, I wanted to throw up the last milk I drank. I submit that the milk business is hard up if that is all they have to offer.

Then there is sleepy old Ted Turner, who in a speech at Independence Hall in Philadelphia where he accepted, of all things, the Liberty Medal for CNN International, said that the National Anthem should be replaced by "America the Beautiful." That sounds more like his wife, "Hanoi Jane" Fonda, than it does old Ted. I would imagine Hanoi Jane would be more comfortable if our anthem was charged to the North Vietnamese anthem. Americans were dying while she gave aid and comfort to the North Vietnamese during that war.

The story about Bill Clinton's close friend and heavy contributor to the Clinton-Gore presidential campaign, Larry Lawrence, is mind-boggling, to say the least. Clinton appointed Lawrence as ambassador to Switzerland as reward for his contributions. In order to serve as ambassador, one is required to pass a security check by the State Department to secure top secret clearance, making them privy to all of the government's secrets.

Now it has been disclosed that Lawrence had been living a lie about his military service, which should have been picked up by the State Department. They were either stupid or didn't care. I prefer to believe the latter.

Lawrence claimed to be a hero during World War II. He said that he was thrown overboard from his ship, the Horace Bushnell, after it was hit by a torpedo. In fact, he was attending classes at Wilber Wright College in Chicago at the time. Clinton approved his burial in Arlington National Cemetery along with real heroes who did give their lives for their country.

Well, when it hit the fan that Lawrence had lied about his military service, his wife had the decency to dig him up and remove him from that National Shrine. This is just another of the many Clinton screw ups and it goes on and on and on. Will it ever end?

Welcome to the real world.

The Virginia Beach Sun

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Sharing the season makes it meaningful

We are now at the time of year where we hear, "Tis the season to jolly." For some of us that may not be true. Of the many and varied organizations around the Hampton Roads area that help children and families at this time of year, I will be mentioning only three — and they mainly pertain to helping children share in the special joy during this holiday season.

The Joy Fund

... began in 1934 by a *Ledger-Star* editor, Tom Hanes, and since that time over a million children have received equal shares of "holiday bounty" from it.

Children's names are referred to the Joy Fund by Social Services, school principals and the clergy. Names are accepted from Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Isle of Wight and the Virginia Eastern Shore. Approximately 35,000 children each year reap the benefits of Hanes' concern for their happiness 63 years ago. No child is turned away.

The Joy Fund works by giving a voucher to a parent or guardian for each child 10 years of age or under. This voucher can be used like a check at specified stores for clothing or toys for their children. This is very exciting to me. I see two things happening. Not only does the child receive what he or she wants from Santa, but the parents have the pleasure of shopping for them.

The money that allows these vouchers to be given out is by donation. One thing the Joy Fund especially wants to stress is that every penny donated goes to a child since all the operating costs of the Joy Fund are underwritten by the *Virginian-Pilot*.

For just a few tax-exempt dollars we, too, can share in the caring and giving during this holiday season.

"Far beyond helping to buy gifts, your donation also helps thrill children's hearts, children who otherwise might have spent the holidays with no gift, no celebration, no joy at all." Please call 446-2595 for additional information.

The Salvation Army, a familiar name to most of us, is the organization responsible for the Angel Trees we see everywhere during this special holiday season. They have trees in K-Marts, Wal-Marts, Hills Sam's, BJ's, Value City, Target and the Burlington Coat Factory stores. They have them at Pembroke Mall, Lynnhaven Mall, Greenbrier Mall, Military Circle Mall, Southern Shopping Center, the Great Atlantic Outlet Mall and Waterside. Also, approximately 65 to 70 churches, organizations and businesses have Angel Trees.

These trees have the name, age, sex and size of a child listed on a white paper angel hanging from the tree. The prospective donor picks an angel and buys clothing for that child and takes the unwrapped purchase or purchases to the Salvation Army Distribution Center at Janaf Shopping Center in the J.C. Penney Port Folio Building. Although clothing items are expected, toys can also be purchased for that child, but only to go along with the clothing.

Approximately 8,000 to 8,500 chil-

dren and 3,500 families each year benefit from these Angel Trees, and this program has been in existence in the Hampton Roads Area for approximately 15 years.

The Salvation Army also prepares Christmas baskets and are always open for donations of canned food and non-perishable items. For more information regarding the Salvation Army, please call 461-7646.

The Toys for Tots sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and are proud of the number of children, numbering in the millions, they have made happy over those 50 years. This now nationally known program was started in 1947 by Major Bill Hendricks of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, and in 1996 alone, they shared in making 14,000 children very happy.

Although the Marine Corps Reserve organizes, coordinates and manages the Toys for Tots Program, they depend on local civic groups, churches, Social Services, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and other agencies to help with the pickup and distribution of approximately 7 million toys annually. They say, "The ultimate success depends on the support of the local community and the generosity of the people who donate toys."

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, a tax-exempt, not-for-profit charity is support to the Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots Program and arranges fundraisers to supplement the collections of toys by the Reserve Units. These fundraisers are sponsored by local businesses. By attending the fundraisers and/or donating new or used toys you are sharing in the caring of children during this holiday season. For more information about the Toys for Tots Program and the fundraisers, please call 433-6465.

For more information about other seasonal programs in the Hampton Roads area, call the Information Center of Hampton Roads, 625-4543.

Holiday robber offered unwanted surprise locally

"Tis the Christmas season and the reason for giving — and unfortunately for taking. Virginia Beach police need your help in locating a burglar suspect.

The Eckerd Drug Store located at Pleasant Valley Road and Lynnhaven Parkway has been burglarized several times this year. Entry was gained by breaking out front glass door with a hammer. Once inside, the burglar went behind the front counter and caller ID units, answering machines and papers.

Crime Solvers will pay up to \$1,000 for information on this crime or any other crime. Call 427-0000. As always, you will remain anonymous and you will not have to appear in court or we can be reached at 1-888-LOCK-U-UP.

Crime Solvers

By Det. Ike Cashwell, Virginia Beach Police Department

took items such as cordless phones, caller ID units, answering machines and papers.

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Up close and personal

Corinne Lilyard-Mitchell: Balancing act

By Victoria Hecht

Editor:

How does one do a mid-life assessment of her joys and triumphs, griefs and losses?

In Corinne Lilyard-Mitchell's case, she put pencil to paper and paintbrush to canvas.

Lilyard-Mitchell, a Virginia Beach resident and adjunct professor at Tidewater Community College's Visual Arts Center in Olde Towne Portsmouth, is presenting her first one-woman exhibit through Jan. 11 at the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia.

"Balancing Between the Shadow and the Light" is the thesis show, a series of approximately 15 graphite drawings and acrylic paintings representing the self-described "clutter" of her life. Following the exhibition and oral defense this spring, Lilyard-Mitchell will graduate with a master of fine arts degree from the joint Old Dominion University/Norfolk State University program.

"The work that's in it reflects about one year of work, the best and most cohesive of about three years. My show is very personal because there are so many self-portraits in it, reflecting pretty much what I and other people go through — pressures, anxieties, things to deal with," she explained.

Lilyard-Mitchell prefers not to reveal the most private themes in the work, but she sums up the crux of its content as "the constant balancing of all parts of your life."

She described herself as the typically artistic child, enjoying coloring, doodling and such.

"But I wasn't what you call a creative child," she confessed.

As an adult, Lilyard-Mitchell vented her artistic talents in visual merchandising for department stores. She also held down waitressing and food service jobs.

"But art is always where I've been happiest. It's always drawn me back. It's where I'm most comfortable. I finally decided I should just stick with it," she said.

Several years ago Lilyard-Mitchell consulted an old friend, Anne Iott, now director of the TCC Visual Arts Center, about her work. Initially, the artist taught at the Beach campus. She later transferred to the downtown Portsmouth site when it opened, teaching general art, painting and visual foundations.

She plans to continue teaching and "making art" after completing her master's requirements. Local art buffs, however, shouldn't expect to see Lilyard-Mitchell's work at many local shows because it doesn't have "mass appeal."

"Those who like my work are attracted by the subject. It's not 'decorator' art," she explained.

Folks attracted to her work are likely to be drawn to "Balancing Between the Shadow and the Light."

"I've noticed that men and women tend to look at it a little differently. Women tend to understand what it's all about right away when they walk in. The guys kind of look at it and say, 'I'm not quite sure I understand.' I think if nothing else it's not an extremely serious show. I hope they can see a bit of themselves — memories. I use toy imagery, so people comment 'I remember that.' These are things they can relate to."

Lilyard-Mitchell's show is featured in the Fleming Room of the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, 2200 Parks Ave. in Virginia Beach. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Name: Corinne Lilyard-Mitchell.

What brought you to this area: The Navy in 1978.

Hometown: I'm a Navy brat, so I never had one. But I was born in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Age: 44.

Nickname: None that I know of.

Occupation: I've been an adjunct instructor in the art department at

the Pavilion Theatre in Virginia Beach.

The concert features many of Gershwin's most popular works, including "Rhapsody in Blue" and "An American in Paris."

Gershwin, born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1898, began his extraordinary career when he was just 16, playing the piano in a music store to demonstrate popular new songs. Success came just a few years later at age 19, when one of his first songs, "Swanee" sold more than two million phonograph records.

But even that paled in comparison to the popularity he

achieved with "Rhapsody in Blue,"

"Porgy and Bess" as the Virginia Symphony, Maestro JoAnn Falletta and piano virtuoso Rich Ridenour present an evening of George Gershwin favorites on Sunday, Jan. 4 at 2:30 p.m. at the Pavilion Theatre in Virginia Beach.

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Back Bay advocates work tirelessly

When Brown, now a Sandbridge resident, heard that Back Bay Wildlife Refuge wanted to expand its borders, she and her husband, Bill, helped re-organize the Friends of Back Bay.

That group originally formed in 1980 in opposition to a proposal to build a road from Sandbridge south to Corolla.

"We resurrected it with the land acquisition issue," said Brown.

The Browns and Cheryl and Jeff Petticrew worked long hours in what at first seemed like an uphill fight. A counter-group organized to fight the land acquisition, and Brown said that her group had to move fast to keep up. They did a lot of research, attended public hearings and worked late into the night preparing documents, often without the aid of office equipment.

"There were a lot of times when we ran out to Kinlo's in the middle of the night," she said.

Now the group focuses on lobbying Congress for continued funding for land, and their persistence has paid off, Brown said.

"What makes us part of the 36

(that receive funding) is that we have a need," she said. "And our project has been proven to be working, and when we continually lobby Congress they can see where the money is going."

"Most of the lobbyists that the Congressmen talk to are paid," Brown added. "It's seldom that they see volunteers, especially those who come back year after year."

The wildlife refuge's primary aim is to provide a winter haven for the migratory waterfowl that have been stressed by increased development in recent years. Refuge officials hope to the marsh, swamp and upland wetlands along Back Bay to their natural state so that the marsh grasses that flourish under wet conditions will provide for and shelter for the waterfowl that feed and rest here en route South.

The site that has the bald cypress trees, Brown said, was farmed until recent years "so with little effort they should be able to restore it to its natural state."

Friends of Back Bay, which now has 11 active board members and about 400 members, also conducts environmental education classes for

schoolchildren at the refuge.

"We have school groups down here all the time," said Petticrew, who is herself a mother and the president of the Princess Anne Middle School PTA. "We bring them down here, talk to them and show them this unique environment."

The children, she said, respond well and remember what they've learned.

"We have special education groups who remember the word 'nutria' from year to year, and that's not that common a word," Petticrew said. They've been supported by refuge officials, including regional director Ron Lamberton, who recently helped find their latest educational tool, a mounted bald eagle that's now displayed inside the refuge headquarters. The kids, Brown said, are impressed with the bird's size and power.

"I was raised with a strong love and respect for the environment," Petticrew added, and she tries to instill that in her own sons as well as in the children she sees at the refuge.

"I teach my children to have a

strong commitment to protect the environment," she said. Her sons, Brendan, 15, and Wesley, 13, once helped rescue a seagull with a six-pack ring stuck around its neck, "and we've gone out on the water in boats to pick up trash," Petticrew added.

Volunteer work at the refuge is a family affair for both the Browns and the Petticrewns. They do whatever is needed, they said, from lobbying Congress to performing odd jobs.

"We've picked up trash on the beach," Brown said. "And we've washed windows down here before. We've actually had our husbands out here washing windows."

"Our parents both instilled in us a love of nature and respect for the environment," Petticrew added.

The refuge hopes, eventually, to buy increase its size to over 1,100 acres. The refuge was formed in 1939, as funding for the expansion comes from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The migratory birds that feed there include the osprey, black duck, wood duck, snow goose, Canada goose, and woodcock, as well as some songbirds.



Photo by Margaret Whitley

Santa smiles

The kindergarten students from Parkway Elementary School enjoyed breakfast with Santa Claus last Friday at the River Pointe Rehabilitation and Health Care Centre on Bonney Road. The youth also performed holiday songs for residents before the young and old told their holiday wishes to Santa. The morning was truly a family affair. Veronica Texiera, top photo, visited mom Veronica French, while little Candace Kline enjoyed a visit on Santa's lap.



Fire company's project is right on track

support of local sponsors. Monetary support for what has become an annual exhibit has come from the Firefighters Union, Virginia Beach Safety Council, and Greenbrier Florist.

According to Black, many people who visit the exhibit are surprised that there is no charge. "Most people can't believe that it's something that is free," he said.

Each year public attendance has steadily increased according to Black.

Every year it's gotten bigger," he said.

"In the last two years, we've estimated that way over ten thousand people have seen it," Black figured. "This year, we've had a lot more than that."

Leah Jameson, her sons Stephen and Ryan, and daughter Megan were among those who seemed impressed with the trains and firefighters' efforts. Jameson said, "I just think that the firefighters and everybody who did this did a great job." She added, "They should be commended for it. This is a wonderful thing that they're doing."

Although Robert Guthrie had his grandchildren in tow, he took a little time to reflect upon what he had seen. "I think that

the trains are neat, and they remind me of a display that I saw when I was a child. It's like a family outing, more or less," he observed.

If Virginia Beach firefighters are out to garner public favor,

they are — undeniably — on the right track. As a matter of fact, they may have succeeded beyond their wildest childhood dreams with the Christmas Train Show.



Photo by Bob Rungessiger

ALL ABOARD. The Jamesons — Megan, Stephen and Ryan — loved climbing on the Monster Fire Truck.

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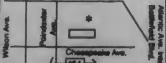
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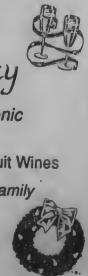


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Princess Anne County Christmas done the down-home way

By Jane Rowe
Correspondent

It's not the Caribbean or Colorado, but some people wouldn't trade a Princess Anne County Christmas for all of the snowy mountains or tropical beaches in the world.

Here, there are raw winds and muddy fields this time of year. But the locals also have live Christmas trees, fragrant evergreens, winter vegetables, hams, roasts and seafood.

"People come here year after year to get their trees," said Winky Henley, who's now selling Christmas trees, collards, broccoli and handmade evergreen wreaths on his Charity Neck Road farm. "Certain people like certain kinds of trees, and they want these same trees year after year."

The two most popular trees, he said, include the Frazier Fir and the Leland Cypress.

Henley offers pre-cut trees and cut-your-own trees, and he also sells potted trees for those who want to see their trees out in the yard after Christmas is over.

Regulars and first-time customers came out in last weekend's dreary weather to pick out their Christmas trees from among the 10 acres of homegrown trees or the pre-cut varieties available at the farm. Some are used to buying their trees right off the farm while for others it's a new experience.

"We've just moved to Virginia Beach," said Tammy Cox. "I'm from San Francisco and we get our Christmas trees from Oregon there."

People have bought their Christmas trees earlier in recent years, Henley said, and he starts selling trees right after Thanksgiving.

"We never used to get out tree until December 15," he said. "Now the day after Thanksgiving people are ready to jump on it."

Henley grows white pines, Virginia Pines, Cedars and Leland Cypress on his farm, and he carries other varieties that he buys from wholesalers.

"Some species don't grow well here," he said, because of this area's humid coastal climate. Many evergreens, including the Frazier fir, need high altitudes, a cold, dry climate and rocky soil to flourish.

"It's too humid to grow the Frazier Fir here," Henley said. "They only grow in the mountains of Virginia and North Carolina, and a few grow in Pennsylvania."

But about 90 percent of those that are grown commercially come



TREE TRIMMER. Bruce Henley stays busy these days helping his father sell the Christmas trees they grow on their Charity Neck Road farm.

Photo by Jane Rowe

from the area around Boone, N.C., he added.

The pines, cedars and Leland cypress do grow well here, he added, and he grows potted Leland Cypress but he cautions that these trees require care if they're going to survive when they're transplanted outdoors.

Inside, he added, give them a quart of water daily and, when Christmas is over and they're ready to be set outside, "stake them so that the wind won't blow them over until they've had a chance to establish roots."

Once they're outside they usually don't need water until the hot dry days of summer arrive.

"They don't need water outside during the winter," Henley said, "but that first summer they're outside they will need it."

After the first year, when the plant's had time to develop its root system, it should be OK in dry weather, he added.

Henley began growing trees about 10 or 12 years ago when Virginia Tech conducted a program to encourage local farmers to try alternative crops. "We sold a lot of pick-your-own crops anyway, and we thought it would be a way to extend our year," he said. He's increased his original five acres of trees to 10 acres, but he said that growing Christmas trees requires patience and, at first, was a trial and error process.

"You have to fool with a tree about five or seven years before you sell it," he said. "Trees only grow about a foot a year," and

most people prefer trees that are five to seven feet tall.

Henley initially tried to grow several different types of trees, including fir and spruce, and learned the hard way that conditions aren't right here for them.

"I had 50 seedlings and all 50 died," he said. "They're just not going to grow on the Coast." The pines and cedar grow well here, he added, and don't seem to be bothered by heat, drought, or too much rain. "The worst that could happen to them would be a bad wind storm that could blow them over," he said.

Henley recently took advantage of his abundance of evergreens to teach himself and employee Betty Strawhand to make fresh wreaths for Christmas. The only thing that doesn't sell, he added, is chicken "because everybody's turkeying at Christmas."

Country and sugar-cured hams and standing rib roasts are particularly popular in this area, he said, and many people like crown pork roast, a pork rib roast. "They make a cranberry apple stuffing or put potatoes in the middle of it," he said. The cylinder shaped roast is sometimes decorated with a plastic king's crown.

This time of year Ansell also sells a lot of "seasoning meat" including hog jowls and bacon "for the collards for Christmas."

Rockfish is in season right now, and locals often "do a big seafood thing" for Christmas, according to Robert Whitehurst of Pungo Fish House. "They get oysters, and those large shrimp and crabmeat to cook for

when we planted it."

Broccoli, he added, is a tricky crop that requires precision timing and just the right weather conditions. The crop must be planted so that it will form a head in cool, but not cold weather.

"Everything has a season," he said, "and if you miss that season you can't do it. It's impossible to grow broccoli in the summer, it's a cool weather crop." The fall crop should be planted by late August, he added, to give it time to grow before the nights turn cold. This year, the drought delayed planting until September, and with the arrival of cold weather "it never headed up like it should."

Collards, Henley added, are more of a "Thanksgiving tradition" than a Christmas tradition locally, although many local people cook them for Christmas as well. And tradition is the name of the game in the late fall, when regular customers return for the same variety of trees and vegetables they had last year.

"We've been here for four years now," said one customer as she watched her children while her husband wrestled a tree on top of the car. "We always get a Frazier fir because I think the ornaments stay on that better. It's become a tradition in our house."

Curtis Ansell, owner of Ansell's Grocery in Back Bay, agreed that Christmas, at least locally, is a time when people observe the customs they've established over the years. Many families, he added, have their own ideas about what's required to make Christmas complete.

Because he specializes in meats, he offers a variety of beef and pork roasts, hams and turkeys for Christmas. The only thing that doesn't sell, he added, is chicken "because everybody's turkeying at Christmas."

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Christmas. And we have a large quantity of rockfish right now." This year's a good one for these fish, he added, "and they'll be around all winter unless it gets really cold. They pretty much stay here all year unless it gets too cold, then they go south. But they don't

go far, maybe to Carolina, and they come right back as soon as the weather warms up."

"The general rule of thumb," he said, "is that everything sells at Christmas. People come in here and buy whatever's traditional for them."

HAMPTON ROADS ON THE MOVE

Getting the word out about your business

You've tried several methods to get the word out about your business — brochures, fliers, etc., but have you ever thought of using your customers?

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If you know a customer is satisfied, send them a satisfaction form via regular mail (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope), e-mail or fax and leave plenty of space for comments. If you use the telephone to contact customers to get testimonials, do so only during a time that is convenient for the customer. Otherwise, a glowing comment may quickly turn to unflattering criticism.

If possible, choose customers who are credible. Potential customers are most likely to believe testimonials from trustworthy clients.

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To avoid legal trouble, get permission from the customer before using his or her name, image or words.

If you plan to pay someone to tout your product or service, as is commonly done in infomercials, clearly state in your advertisement that it is a paid testimonial.

American Heart Association announces new vice president

The American Heart Association has appointed Joanne Batson as vice president of Eastern field services for Eastern Virginia.

Batson was most recently financial development director with the American Red Cross. Previously, she served as executive director of the Greenville, S.C. YWCA, where she was honored with the Joanne E. Batson YWCA Endowment Fund.

As vice president of field services, Batson will lead more than 20,000 heart volunteers, direct the implementation of new community programs and management of local fund-raising activities. The Hampton Roads office serves the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach, Southampton and York counties and the Eastern Shore region.

"Cardiovascular disease is the nation's number one killer," said Batson. "I am thrilled to be part of the American Heart Association, an organization that makes such a difference in the fight against heart disease and stroke through education and research."

The Eastern Virginia regional annually raises more than one million dollars for the fight against heart disease and stroke. This money is used locally to finance American Heart Association educational programs in area schools, churches, civic organizations and businesses, to train emergency workers and other individuals on



Joanne Batson
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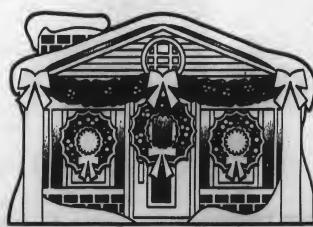
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May peace and joy burn brightly throughout your heart and home this holiday season.

Happy Holidays to all and best wishes for a glowing year.



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The Virginia Beach Sun • The Chesapeake Post
The Portsmouth Times

Oh, Blessed Season!

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Here's hoping you get everything you want and more. Many thanks and merry Christmas to you and yours!

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A Note of Thanks

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Gilmore outlines commitments at chamber gathering

By Victoria Hecht
Editor

Hundreds of Hampton Roads business and community leaders packed the new Chesapeake Conference Center last week for their first upclose look at Governor-elect Jim Gilmore and his proposals.

Done was the rally cry of "No car tax!" as many local leaders sought Gilmore's answers to filling city coffers — and meeting regional needs without benefit of personal property tax.

"It's more or less the first time we're going to get the opportunity to hear him since the election," said Virginia Beach City Councilwoman Louisa Strayhorn.

"As a city official, I'm concerned about the cuts and whether or not they're really going to replace the money. We're sure hoping he'll give us a few tidbits about assuring us that indeed money will come to replace it. We're also looking for ground rules, whether they're going to push it ahead soon — all those things of concern."

Those answers did not come during his remarks at the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce annual meeting Thursday, but were alluded to afterward. Gilmore suggested economic growth would fill the gap, even federal dollars.

He also pledged his commitment to better roads and highway systems and, particularly in Hampton Roads, a new tunnel. Himself a veteran, Gilmore is also committed to the military, increased tourism, education (more teachers in the classroom was a major platform issue) and workforce training.

He wants Virginia — now the 16th largest exporter in the United States — to "leap into the top 10." He lauded the port of Hampton Roads as the second largest port on the East Coast, trailing only New York/New Jersey. Gilmore would also like to see the Virginia film industry grow and noted the upcoming blockbuster "Virus" which was recently filmed off the state's coast.

In all this, Gilmore stressed regionalism and applauded

Hampton Roads efforts to work together. But he also remarked on the larger picture of all Virginia regions working together.

"I have a philosophy about what my dreams and aspirations for the commonwealth are. I believe that the regions must be included. There is a strong tradition in Virginia of trying to set one group against another and make them compete for limited resources and build resentments. Sometimes that's a good way to build political support, you see, if you can divide and conquer people. We can't have that anymore," Gilmore said.

"We have to draw people together, all across this commonwealth."

Gilmore will begin the union by holding regional inauguration events. On Jan. 13, there will be a luncheon at the Norfolk Marriott and a reception at the Chrysler Museum. In Williamsburg, Gilmore will give an address at Raleigh Tavern.

"We have an exciting future in the commonwealth and an exciting future in Hampton Roads," Gilmore continued, noting that the area is "key" to Virginia's development.

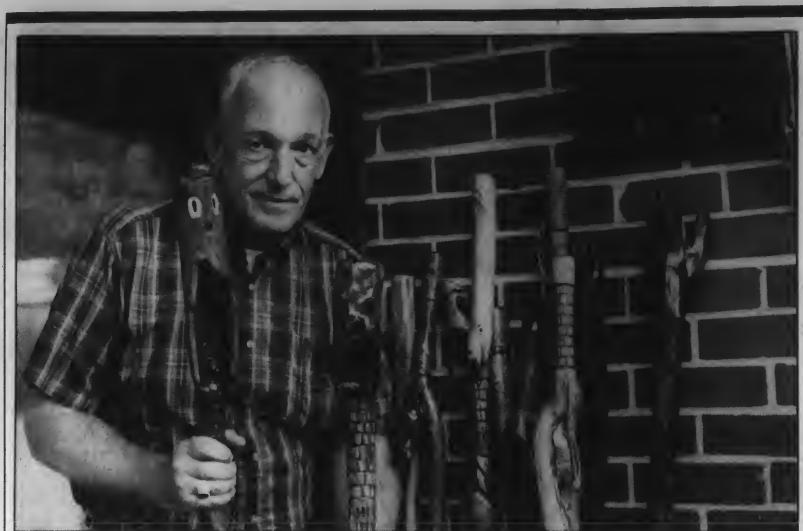
He emphasized the importance of vocational and high-tech education, noting nearby "cutting edge" technology at Gateway 2000 and Jefferson Laboratories.

"So you see, I'm here because Hampton Roads is an integral part of the big picture that all of us must think about."

The governor-elect's speech was followed by recognition of the chamber's 1997 volunteer leadership and installation of the 1998 regional board of directors.

Robert Keogh, president and CEO of Heritage Bank and Trust, was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. R. Bruce Bradley, president and publisher of *The Virginian-Pilot*, was installed as chairman. The new treasurer is Robert M. Boyd, president and chief administrative officer for First Virginia Bank of Tidewater.

A Chairman's Award was presented to John A. Horbeck, who recently completed his 10th year as president and CEO of the chamber.



STICKING TO IT. Peter Micken of Virginia Beach says each piece of wood has a personality that shapes its formation.

Photo by Sandra Barker

'Sticking' to business

By Sandra J. Barker
Correspondent

The grass carpet is green, the vaulted ceiling blue and the pine paneling still grows on the trees.

The great outdoors provides the perfect workshop for Peter Micken as he carves out a successful business in Virginia Beach with his handcrafted hiking sticks.

Micken was a 12-year-old Boy Scout when he began carving. First came neckchief slides and then the flagstaff for his Scout patrol, which he said, "came out pretty good."

Several years ago, Micken, now 55, started carving hiking sticks as a hobby. Working as a government contractor, developing computer-based training systems, and working toward his master's degree in training technology was not enough for Micken.

"I'm a workaholic," he said. "I got bored watching television, so I thought I'd find something more interesting to do."

His first stick sale came as a result of a chance encounter with another hiker in the woods at Seashore State Park.

"I made myself a nice vine-twisted walking stick. Somebody walked up, fell in love with it and wanted it. That's happened three times. One of the sticks I

sold like that had a little face with one eye that said, 'ICU,'" he said.

In 1995, Micken decided it was time to branch out with his Virginia Hiking Stick Company.

Companies have blossomed and his sticks have found their way up and down the East Coast and into two foreign countries. At \$50 to \$175 each, the handcrafted, quality sticks are a bargain and the individual attention to detail and design is something rare and unique in this day of machine-made, assembly line products.

Micken's hiking stick designs are very much personalized affairs. Although he sells sticks by mail order and from a small number of made-up stock, he prefers that the customer visit his shop for a hands-on experience.

"I have about 500 blanks in the shed. They go through and pick. The wood has some sort of spirit in it, shape, size, weight. Once it latches them, then we sit down and come up with a design," he explained.

Once the stick is selected and held in the customer's hand, it is uncanny how frequently the stick will assume an identity of its own.

Micken chose a lightweight, vine-twisted stick for one female visitor, saying, "Here's

something I think would suit you. It's still strong enough to beat off a dog or a two-footed cur, yet at the same time delicate."

As the visitor held the stick in her hand, she examined the design of squares near the top and said, "The upper part of the stick reminds me of the Egyptian Queen Nefertiti with her tall headdress."

Thus, another woman is born.

Micken finds the raw material for his creations wherever nature chooses to drop them. Even the beavers help out sometimes. One of his favorite sticks is Fred, a tall, curved stick with a gaping mouth and squared-off head.

"He was half dead when I found him. He looked a little deformed and I felt sorry for him," he laughed. "I stand him in front of me and say, 'Hey, you, pay attention!'"

Although Micken's wife, Audrie, more or less tolerates his walking stick business, his two Shih Tzu dogs, Obie and Ewok, appear eager to keep him company in his outdoor workshop.

"Oh-be quiet," Micken playfully rebukes a barking Obie.

He points to the picture of a hiking stick in his photo album.

"This stick is now on the Appalachian Trail from the whole 2,900 miles. The man put the starting place and stopping place on it and the names of his crew people. When he comes back we'll put all the highlights of the trip on it, like, I ate the bear, the bear attacked me, the skunk and I had to run, whatever. He started in April and should be finishing up about now."

Many of Micken's designs are commemorative sticks for special occasions. Military retirement sticks list a record of the service member's rates, dates and duty stations, along with any other desired information. He also does Boy Scout sticks, bar mitzvah sticks, various club sticks and sports sticks. The possibilities are limited only by the customer's imagination.

Micken is surrounded by a stick paradise. As a one-eyed cyclops watches from the top of a stick and a brass dolphin waits to be put atop another stick, the master craftsman carves a notch into a commemorative stick for a local Karate champion. Nature's cast-offs have become functional works of art under his skillful hands.

For information about the Virginia Hiking Stick Company, contact Micken at 456-9242 or www.inf.net/~cbmick/

City sets holiday schedule

The city of Virginia Beach has announced its schedule for Christmas and New Year.

All city of Virginia Beach offices including public libraries, recreation centers, Pavilion Convention Center, and the Visitor Information Center will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and be closed all day Thursday and

Friday, Dec. 25 and 26 and Thursday, Jan. 1.

Virginia Beach recreation centers and libraries will close at 5 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31.

The Virginia Marine Science Museum will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 but will be open on Friday, Dec. 26 and Thursday, Jan. 1. The Francis Land House will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and be closed all day Thursday, Dec. 25 and 26 and Thursday and Friday, Jan. 1 and 2.

The Virginia Beach Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Virginia Beach General District Court and Clerk's Office; and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and Clerk's Office will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24 and be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 25 and 26 and Thursday and Friday, Jan. 1 and 2.

Students who attend Virginia Beach City Public Schools will be off for winter holidays starting Wednesday, Dec. 24 through Friday, Jan. 2. Students will return to school Monday, Jan. 5.

Pain may be eliminated for millions

(SPECIAL) A drug that is exciting researchers in the treatment of pain has been formulated into a new product known as "Arthur Itis," and is being called a "Medical Miracle" by some, in the treatment of debilitating conditions such as arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism, pain-

shows such as "Tango Passion" and "Forever Tango" sparking an interest in traditional dance long used as a form of sensuous expression in South America. The romanticism of the dance holds a place in Latin culture similar to that of opera in many European countries.

"This is really a novel event for the beach," says Courtney Dyer, spokesman for Pavilion. "It's a unique evening of dance and music in a fantastic ballroom setting. Ballroom dancing has become very popular so we expect a full house this year."

And ballroom purists will no doubt appreciate the 7,200 square foot wooden floor being installed for the night's festivities. "Seasoned dancers prefer a wood floor," explains Dyer.

New Year's Eve at Pavilion includes a full breakfast, champagne toast at midnight, continuous dancing that includes Tangos, Mambo, Cha-Chas and traditional ballroom dance. The

non-stop festivities start at 7:30 p.m. and last until 1:30 a.m., with disc jockeys Fred and Susan Yancy providing the music during orchestra breaks. Admission is \$49.50 per person. For an additional fee, visitors can extend

their weekend to take advantage of a Ballroom Dance Workshop, Jan. 1-3, which will feature a competition and dinner dance.

For information on New Year's Eve at Pavilion, call 471-2412.



More than a language

Kirstin Cals recently wrote a letter to "The Vision," a women's volunteer group of the Japan Forum, outlining Cape Henry Collegiate School's language program and included a profile of the school. The organization selected the school as a cultural project and sent more than \$2,000 worth of books on Japan for the school library collection. Pictured with the new books, from left, are parent Yoshimi Ohba, head librarian Nancy Moye, student Andy Tilhou, parent Naoko Fukuda, teacher of Japanese Cals, student Sun Kim and student Nate Nelson.

Send your community news and photos to:

The Virginia Beach Sun

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Committee recommends Owls Creek water monitoring

First step in strategy

By Lee Cahill
City Council Reporter

The Owls Creek Watershed Advisory Committee has recommended that the city provide funds for the water quality monitoring at Owls Creek.

The monitoring would be a first step in the development of a long-term strategy for the protection and promotion of the natural and economic resource to sustain the high quality of the waters, natural areas and developed and developable lands of the watershed. City Council adopted the need for a strategy in Nov. 2, 1995.

Edward Bourdon, a member of

the committee, at a council work session last week, told council that environmentalists, business owners and the civic community are unanimous in their support of the effort.

Establishing a formal Owls Creek Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Program is among the short-term initiatives recommended by the committee. The committee wants to expand the current monitoring being one by the Department of Environmental Quality in partnership with Tidewater Community College to include Lake Holly North, Lake Holly South, Lake Christine and outside the jetties at Rudee Inlet. Under the program funding for the overall effort as a permanent

element of the Owls Creek Watershed Management Program would be assured.

Bourdon said that he has learned from older people in the community that the water quality is better than before Rudee Inlet was dredged.

■ Implement the recommendations of Lake Holly Subcommittee including the construction of forebays at locations which can be maintained from the shoreline to extend the period between major maintenance dredging operations of the lake. The committee recommended utilizing surplus funds from the current dredging project to implement as many of the recommendations as possible and

to implement a watershed maintenance plan.

■ Have the city prepare a comprehensive inventory of existing conditions in the watershed to be used as a tool by the committee in evaluating watershed management issues. The inventory would be a joint effort of the departments of planning and public works.

■ Use the funding source identified for plant materials to develop and implement a plan for regrading, correcting and permanently stabilizing ongoing erosion and sedimentation problems originating along the shoreline at the city dredging operations site and reestablish riparian upland vegetative buffers

and enhance disturbed wetlands areas adjoining the site.

Mary Heinrich, also a member of the committee, said that the committee is trying to create partnerships with the business community. She said that one land owner while retrofitting his property, constructed a BMP (best management practice) retention pond into which other property owners could drain their storm water.

Councilman Linwood Branch said the volunteers are coming up with ideas, that the meetings are well-attended and that the committee should be continued. He said that the monitoring tests should be established.

Bourdon said that other issues

may arise.

Heinrich, recommending the expansion of the TCC program, said that public works is doing a study giving projections at Owls Creek where a water source is critical to the Virginia Marine Science Museum.

Bourdon said the monitoring should be done by people "without an agenda." Heinrich said that there also is an opportunity for possible corps funding of the project.

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Notice

SHOW CAUSE ORDER

It appearing that a report of the accounts of William R. Goss, Executor of the Estate of Gale T. Goss, deceased, and of the debt and demands against her estate have been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that six (6) months have elapsed since the qualification, on motion of William R. Goss, Executor, IT IS ORDERED that the creditors of, and all others interested in, the Estate do show cause, if any they can, on the 9th day of January, 1998, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, before this Court at its courtroom, against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Gale T. Goss, deceased, to the residuary beneficiaries without requiring rendering bonds.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Show Cause Order be published once a week for two successive weeks in The Virginia Beach Sun, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

IT IS ORDERED that this Show Cause Order be recorded in my custody, J. CURTIS FRUIT, CLERK, Circuit Court, Virginia Beach, VA

By Paul K. Bennett
Kirland M. Kelley, p.a.
Kirland M. Kelley, Esquire
Kaufman & Cano, P.C.
P.O. Box 3037
Norfolk, VA 23514-3037

50-2

212-19

City to acquire Bow Creek motel property

By Lee Cahill
City Council Reporter

Princess Anne Plaza residents are slated for some relief from what they consider an onerous use in their neighborhood — and will get a park as well.

City Council by consensus last week authorized City Manager James K. Spore to look into the acquisition of the Bow Creek Motel, a sore point among the surrounding residents who claimed that the motel clientele made it unsafe or at least unpleasant for children to walk to the Bow Creek Recreation center next door.

Following recommendations of a Parks and Recreation Department study Tuesday, the city is ready to go ahead and acquire the motel property, remove the motel and develop a 5.5 acre neighborhood park in the community and additional parking for both the recreation center and the Bow Creek Golf Course.

The cost of the motel property — the city will not release estimated cost figures while negotiations are underway — would be included in the 1998-99 proposed capital improvement program (CIP).

The demolition of the existing motel and structures, which will cost an estimated \$290,000, will also be included in the CIP.

Site improvements, an estimated \$340,000, will be funding by parks and recreation/golf funds in the current CIP.

City Manager James K. Spore said he would have recommendations for the funding in the proposed CIP.

Barry Frankenfeld, parks and

recreation, at a work session Tuesday, told council that the motel is not the highest and best use of the property, that the area has a deficit of parks and recreation, and that the motel has some long-time residents. He said that the city has been dealing with motel attorneys.

The neighborhood census tract is in the Holland Planning Area of the city which, along with the Bayside Planning Area, have the highest need for open space and outdoor recreation amenities, according to the report.

The motel and restaurant, according to the report, has a high crime rate and disruptive activities spill over into the neighborhood,

Also to be included are landscaping, a planting buffer and shade trees, playground and park amenities and a new berm at the golf course hole number one to

the recreation center and the golf course.

Improvements would include new road pavement and curbing, resolving the flooding problem and unifying the entrance; a new accessible walk into the site to the recreation center; a new separate entrance/road into the golf parking area, resolving conflicts with parking uses and orienting users to their appropriate destination, and the addition of 39 parking spaces, 20 for the golf course and 19 for the recreation center.

An appraisal of the motel property has been completed but the information is confidential at this time.

Frankenfield said that the value of residential properties in the area are stable and may possibly increase with the improvements.

Estimates are that the operational budget will be increased by less than \$10,000 a year.

The feasibility study reported to council last week was coordinated by the city staff and included Parsons, Brinkerhoff, Quade and Douglas, Inc. and Langley and McDonald, Inc.

An appraisal of the motel property has been completed but the information is confidential at this time.

Frankenfield said that the value of residential properties in the area are stable and may possibly increase with the improvements.

He said that the recreation center, less than half the size of the Princess Anne Recreation Center, has an attendance of 160,000 a year.

Councilwoman Reba McClanahan, who represents the Princess Anne Borough, said that people take their children to other recreation centers to avoid passing by the motel. "I don't think people will continue to live there until something is done," she said.

Mayer Meyera Oberndorf said that other areas have similar problems. If a friendly purchase is not possible, she said, other ways of acquiring the property can be discussed.

IT IS ORDERED that the recreation center, less than half the size of the Princess Anne Recreation Center, has an attendance of 160,000 a year.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Clubs

The Princess Anne Woman's Club of Virginia Beach will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 11 a.m. at Tandon's Pine Tree Inn.

The Diabetes Treatment Center at Virginia Beach General Hospital will hold a support group meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 20 from 3-4 p.m. in the Health Education Center, located across from the hospital's Emergency Center. This free service for people with diabetes and their families offers both educational and emotional support. For more information call 496-6239.

Virginia Beach General Hospital will hold a Breast Cancer Support Group meeting on Monday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Health Education Center, located across from the hospital's Emergency Center. This free service for breast cancer patients offers both educational and emotional support. The support group meets on the second Monday of every month. For more information, call 481-8393.

Virginia Beach General Hospital will hold a Cancer Support Group meeting on Monday, Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Health Education Center, located across from the hospital's Emergency Center. This free service for cancer patients and their families offers both educational and emotional support. The support group meets on the third Monday of every month. For more information, call 496-6330.

Virginia Beach General Hospital will hold a Resolve Through Sharing Support Group meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the hospital's West Wing Conference Room. This support group helps parents recover from the loss of a child through miscarriage, still birth or early infant death. Parents are welcome to share their feelings or just listen to others who understand and care. For more information, call 481-8292.

Vacancies remain in Adult Studio School

Space is still available in Adult Studio School 1997 workshops at the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia. January classes include:

■ Visiting Artist Workshop, "Art as a Spiritual Path" with Paul Heussenstamm, Friday, Jan. 16, 7-10 p.m. Potluck and discussion at the home of Paul Ashley. Learn from Heussenstamm how his teaching — through meditation, ritual, film, holographic chart and music — induces students into their own creative universe. Free, but advance registration is required.

■ "Entering Your Creative Universe" Saturday, Jan. 17, 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Students will "explore artistically the intrinsic patterns of the soul. As you begin to open your creative channels, these patterns will naturally unfold."

Friends of library gear up for annual used book sale

The Friends of the Virginia Beach Public Library will hold their Semi-Annual Used Book Sale from noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 28 at the Virginia Beach Pavilion in Virginia Beach.

Books available will cover all subjects and prices are very low (\$1 for hardback books; 50 cents for paperback books). Admission is free and there is no limit to the number of books that can be purchased.

The Pavilion Convention Center will not admit patrons into the facility prior to 8 a.m., nor will it distribute courtesy tickets to early arrivals of the book sale as has been done in the past. For crowd management a lottery procedure will be used on Dec. 28.

At 11 a.m., a Pavilion staff member will ask to form a line. While moving down the line, staff will distribute a predetermined amount of tickets from a mixed bag, issuing one ticket per customer, 12 years of age and older.

Every ticketholder will then be asked to reform the line by ticket number sequence. This will be the head of the show admittance line. Any person arriving after the line

Health

Virginia Beach General Hospital offers a six-week Prepared Childbirth class. Classes are held in the AtHome Care Office, Oxford Square, 1450 Kempsville Road, Virginia Beach. Classes are offered beginning on Wednesday, Jan. 7 from 6-8 p.m. or Thursday, Jan. 8 from 7-9 p.m. There is a fee. For more information and to register, call the AtHome Care Maternal/Child Program, 467-4037.

Virginia Beach General Hospital will offer a Newborn Care class on Saturday, Jan. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon in the hospital. The newborn class is designed to assist parents in taking care of their new arrivals. The class covers bathing, feeding, infant safety, safe sleeping positions and doctors' visits. A fee is charged. For more information and to register, call the AtHome Care Maternal/Child Program, 467-4037.

Virginia Beach General Hospital now offers "Transition to Fatherhood." This is a two-hour class to help expectant fathers assume their new responsibilities through self-awareness and open communication with their partner, and bonding with their new child. This class will be held on Saturday, Jan. 3 from 9-11 a.m. The class location is the AtHome Care Office, 1450 Kempsville Road (Oxford Square), Virginia Beach. A fee is charged (includes book). Space is limited and preregistration is required. For more information and to register, call the AtHome Care Maternal/Child Program, 467-4037.

Religion

A special unity holiday tradition of candlelighting which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ and the birth of the Christ Spirit within the human heart will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 24 at Unity Church of Tidewater, 5580 Shell Rd. in Virginia Beach. Seating will be at 7 p.m. Call 464-0772 or 420-8711.



What begins with "G?"

Why, Grimmelace, of course! Grimmelace from McDonald's at Acendale recently visited Glenwood Elementary School, home of the Gates, to read to kindergarten and preschool classes. This was a culminating activity for the youngsters who had been studying the letter "G." The restaurant is one of the school's Partners in Education. Assistant Manager Bridgett Molly assisted the purple-costumed Grimmelace, portrayed by Christina Hassoud, in a storyline.



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The Virginia Beach Sun

Friday, December 26, 1997

VIRGINIA BEACH SUN

69th Year No. 50 35 Cents

Essay contest

The Making A Difference Foundation is conducting its Third Annual Essay Scholarship Contest through Feb. 15 for Hampton Roads high school students in grades nine through 12. Entrants must submit an official application along with an essay of at least 500, but not more than 1,000 words, on "The Person Who Made the Biggest Difference in My Life." Scholarships for between \$250 to \$750 will be awarded to 12th grade winners, and cash prizes ranging up to \$50 will be awarded to winners from the ninth, 10th and 11th grade categories. All entrants must be accompanied by an official applications which are available from high schools across the area. Awards will be announced in early April. For more information, call 495-5009.

Cookie time!

The Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast, a United Way agency, will begin order taking Jan. 10 for the annual cookie sale. Cookies will be delivered beginning in mid-February and the sale ends mid-March. Cost is \$2.50 per box, unchanged since 1992. Eight varieties are available: Thin Mints (most popular), Samoas, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Tagalongs, Snaps, new Striped Chocolate Chip and the new sugar-free Chaiet Creme. The Girl Scout cookie program gives the girls the opportunity to learn to set goals, develop responsibility, practice money management and experience the satisfaction of following through on a commitment.

Tea party invite

The Virginia Beach Christian Women's Club West will host a "Boston Tea Party" brunch on Monday, Jan. 19 from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at Grand Affairs, 2036 East Pleasure House Rd. "Let's Have Tea" with Carolyn Wade and taste of Twining's tea. Jan Vazarelli will give a taste of beautiful music with "Tea for Two." Joyce Berinowski comes to us from North Augusta, S.C. with a fascinating "Team Time Topic." Cost is \$8.95. Complimentary nursery for infants to age five is provided. Brunch and nursery reservations are necessary. Call Lori, 721-4136, or Peggy, 495-0385, for reservations by Jan. 16.

Family Superbowl

Great Neck Recreation Center will kick off Superbowl weekend on Friday, Jan. 23 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Watch the thrills and agonies of past Superbowls on video, play games and help yourself to the food. Wear your favorite football jersey and participate in our family flag football game. Make your reservation by Jan. 16. Cost is \$2 plus a membership card or day pass required. For information, call Great Neck Recreation Center, Athletics Unit, 496-6766, TDD 471-5839.

Jaycees gala

The Virginia Beach Jaycees will hold its Fifth Annual New Year's Gala on Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. This black tie-optimal event will be held at the Contemporary Art Center of Virginia located at 2300 Parks Ave. Tickets are \$35 per person and include music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, party favors, midnight toast and a cash bar. The reservation deadline is Dec. 20. For tickets and more information, contact Karen, 498-1194.

Pocahontas play

High Frequency Wavelengths and Project Create will present a performing arts workshop for children and adults during an intensive 10-week workshop that will conclude with four performances of the dance/theater production "Pocahontas." Artistic Director Marilyn Danitz will begin production on Jan. 10 and continue through March 29. Performances will be open to the public at the Kempville Recreation Center Theatre on Fridays, March 20 and 27 at 7 p.m. and Sundays, March 22 and 29 at 2 p.m. Additional performances will be announced upon demand. Participants can register by mail or drop-off at any Virginia Beach Recreation Centers by requesting #17706 or 17716. Cost is \$200. For information, call 422-1240, TDD 471-5839.

A running start

Independence Middle School is planning its annual 5K race and 1-mile run/walk to be held March 7 at the school. The faculty, staff, students, PTA members, adoptive parents and people and businesses in the community surrounding the school are encouraged to participate. It is not too early to put it on your calendar. Sponsors and prizes are being sought. A sponsor may contribute any amount from \$100 to \$300. In return the business is promoted on all advertising for the run on flyers, T-shirts and race numbers. It is a good opportunity to promote business and support the local community and middle school at the same time. Contact Kellie Jordan or Debra Angellotti, directors, at 460-7500 for further information.

Son's hero... was mom's ultimate Christmas gift

Youth's quick action saved the day

By Matthew Shanley

Correspondent

A dying woman, a frightened child and a telephone don't evoke images of an idyllic Christmas.

But it's a special holiday season this year because 6-year-old Michael Landers made a crucial telephone call to 911 that saved his mother Sherita's life after she suffered a near-fatal asthma attack.

Michael, a first grader at Parkway Elementary School in Virginia Beach, talked about the incident as if it had happened a long time ago, as if the memory of seeing his mother lying on the living room floor in front of the couch had long faded from his memory.

These days, Michael's thoughts center around which video game he'll play after getting home from school.

"She fell down, and I stopped and looked at her," Michael recalled. "She said to call 911. They said they'd send someone over quick, and they did."

What followed was a five-day, \$18,000 stay in the critical care unit of Sentara Bayside Hospital, an emergency tracheotomy precipitated by Sherita's collapsed vocal chords, and an extended recovery period that forced her to give up her work as a private duty nurse.

The asthma, which started a few months after a December 1994 car

accident, was treated by a combination of three different inhalers and a steroid medication, but the attacks became increasingly debilitating recently because her vocal chords inexplicably collapsed during one of the attacks recently.

Sherita worked with a speech pathologist on breathing techniques, and her boyfriend, Vincent Morgan of Norfolk, frequently found himself taking Sherita to the emergency room.

"It got to the point that when she was going to the emergency room, I'd take a book," Vincent quipped, referring to visits that lasted for three hours or more.

Sherita also had established a pattern of asking Michael or her other son, Maurice, 11 months older than Michael, to call Vincent every time an attack loomed.

The day before the major attack brought a spell that sent Sherita to the hospital emergency room, but the medication didn't improve her condition.

By late Sunday night, Sherita was wheezing and having difficulty breathing. A few minutes later, she fell to the floor, and Michael went into action.

Though the family had just moved

See SONS, Page 4



Photo by Matthew Shanley

LIFESAVER: Six-year-old Michael Landers is credited with making the call that saved mom Sherita's life.

Library friends gearing up for popular sale

Matthew Shanley

Correspondent

The Friends of Virginia Beach Public Library are hoping to make a few more friends and a few dollars, as well, at their semi-annual used book sale Sunday at the Virginia Beach Pavilion.

The event, which runs from noon to 5 p.m., is a major fund-raiser event for the library and the second of two book sales slated annually by the Friends.

"It has grown tremendously over the past 20 years," said spokeswoman Lynn Polizos. "The support from the public has been overwhelming, because I think the public is aware of the depth, quality of services and variety of services that the Virginia Beach library system offers its residents."

Book sale co-chairman Gene Crabtree, who oversees the event with his wife, Wanda, said the 19th version of the sale promises to be just as big as the past — and just as important because the money funds many of the library's programs.

The children's summer reading club, African-American History Month programs, local history archival indexing and preservation, adult literacy lab, film series for senior citizens, scholarships for college-bound high school seniors, and a children's film series are among the programs that will benefit from a successful book sale.

Library officials estimate that approximately 40,000 books will be

See LIBRARY, Page 4

Land House decks the halls for Twelfth Night celebration

By Bob Flueggegger

Correspondent

Eighteenth-century hospitality is the focal point of the Francis Land House's staff in their annual preparations for the traditional Twelfth Night festivities.

As Christmas Eve approaches, Vicki Harvey, museum education specialist, and her staff are beginning to look forward to another traditional English

Christmas Twelfth Night celebration at the historic house on Virginia Beach Boulevard.

Francis Land's home has been decorated with 18th century embellishments of evergreens, Lynn pine cones, and ivy. In fact, the Land House has been decorated with just about everything and anything that was available to people in Princess Anne County during the latter half of the 18th century.

"We like to show things that were probably available more than the actual way that they would have decorated as we think of decorations," said Harvey.

"For instance, lemons and pineapples would have been part of what they would have eaten — not necessarily used for decorations," she explained.

"But certainly the greenery, the mistletoe, the ivy, the berries —

anything that they had available they would have decorated with," Harvey noted. "We use oyster shells; we use cotton because it shows the history of the area. I'm not sure they ever decorated with cotton, but they might with oyster shells. We take a little license in decorating around Christmas time."

Virginians have always been known for their hospitality.

In 18th-century Virginia, the pineapple became the established symbol of hospitality because pineapples were expensive and difficult to secure. Carvings and castings of pineapples became very popular for ornamental purposes.

Four poster beds, the decorative wooden caps placed atop the bed posts were frequently cut to resemble pineapples. According to Susan Tolbert, assistant education specialist, even the most generous Virginians placed limits on the term of their hospitality.

"If guests had overextended their stay, the carved wooden pineapples on top of the bed posts would be screwed off as an indication to the guests that it was time to leave," Tolbert said.

In addition to pineapples, Harvey speculated that any natural material might have been used for decorative purposes — especially if it had a

TWELFTH NIGHT

Join the festivities on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at the Francis Land House from 6 until 8 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$4 each and should be purchased in advance at the Francis Land House. For more information, call 757-431-4000.

pleasant scent. "Rosemary was a pleasant herb to bring in the house during the holidays," she mentioned as an specific example.

"Rosemary is actually called a Christmas herb because it does have such a wonderful fragrance," she added. "That's what they were thinking about — bringing the outside to combat some of the darkness of winter time," she observed.

Arrangements in the 18th century were not the custom according to Harvey; that convention came somewhat later.

"Things were bunches as opposed to what we think of as styling arrangements," she pointed out. They tended to bunch decorations inside on the window sills, staircases, and

See LAND, Page 8

School, soldiers partner for kids



HELPING HAND: Soldier Reeme Wheeler tackles a school project with Michael Wheeler.

John B. Dey, Fort Story team up for winning program

By Aune Kirk

Correspondent

A unique partnership in Virginia Beach has just won special recognition from the governor.

The Fort Story 11th Transportation Battalion and John B. Dey Elementary School were winners of the 1997 Governor's Partnerships in Education Award recently. But perhaps more important than the recognition is the benefits the partnership brings to children, soldiers, a school and the community.

The 11-year partnership between John B. Dey Elementary and the Fort Story 11th Transportation Battalion has made

the students winners as they receive the direct benefits of tutorage, enrichment activities, scholarships and technology skills.

The soldiers are winners because they have an extended family who's really fun and easy to be with. The school is a winner because they have dozens of talented, skilled and willing hands to help.

And the community is a winner because where so much love and commitment is poured out, it just makes it a great place to be.

According to Jan Bryson, Partnership in Education coordinator at John B. Dey, the volunteer services of the 11th Transportation Battalion are invaluable. They provide a variety of services from making copies to just having lunch with students.

"They were here the first day of school

See SCHOOL, Page 8

Commentary

Happy holidays to all

The holiday season is a time of tradition — when families draw together, reaffirming well-loved customs and fundamental beliefs. The words "Christmas," "Hanukkah" and "Kwanzaa" bring to mind warm and wonderful memories and deep, abiding hopes.

In spite of the myriad of problems facing many people today, the holiday spirit gives strength to all of us. If people can fashion that spirit into a way of life — a direction in which they travel every day — a more peaceful world is possible.

This is not a dream, but something that is within reach. If people could apply the same unselfishness, forgiveness and understanding that they feel during this season to situations that arise at home, business world and community throughout the year, it would be taking a great step toward making the split a year-round influence.

All should try to carry the attitudes at this season into all activities during the coming year. The lives of those all around will be richer and fuller.

May the holidays be satisfying, and may you find the peace of mind and heart which lies within your reach.

Christmas cancels war

Editor's note: The following is based on an eyewitness account of an incident that occurred the day before Christmas at the Western Front during World War I:

As if by some miracle, the shelling stopped and the mortar and rifle fire ceased.

Only silence...

But the stillness was broken by men of the North Staffordshire Regiment, who exchanged "words of good cheer" with the enemy. Men from Britain and Germany talked to one another across No Man's Land!

A British officer suggested a Volkslied (folk song).

The Germans sang...

Everyone agreed to a truce until midnight of Christmas day.

Both sides cut through the barbed wire and walked in each other's trenches, exchanging food and talking and photographing one another.

Some Germans sang "Home Sweet Home" followed by a hymn.

In another part of the trenches, some German soldiers left their positions to offer Christmas greetings to a group of Scots. An officer tried to stop them, but the Germans said, "But this is Christmas..."

At midnight, both Germans and Britons fired warning shots as if to say, "Return to the trenches behind your own lines."

Gradually, the business of trying to kill the enemy returned to normal. But the soldiers on both sides knew that Christmas is not a normal time. It can cancel out war — if only for a day.

The one time

"I have long thought of Christmas, when it has come 'round, as a good time: forgiving, charitable, time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely; and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave; and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And so as Tiny Tim said: 'A Merry Christmas to us all, my dears, God bless us, everyone.' — Charles Dickens.

Fax your letter to the editor today, 548-0390.

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Let the people, all the people, decide

By Scott Bates

Add another saying to the vast store of conventional wisdom such as "the rich get richer." The new saying should be "the rich vote and everyone else stays home." Unfortunately, a post-election analysis by Professor Larry Sabato of the University of Virginia has revealed that more than half of the people who voted in the governor's election this year were college educated and had incomes of more than \$50,000 a year. Only 18 percent of those with only a high school diploma found their way to the polls.

"Those are incredible figures; it just shows how skewed the electorate was," said Sabato. Democracy rests on the consent of the governed. It is a very bad sign indeed when voter turnout falls below 50 percent and the well off have a greater say in public affairs than the rest of society.

While it is true that there are some people who just won't vote, Virginia should do all it can to make voting easier and increase voter participation.

Our history demands it. There were times not too long ago when the government made it difficult if not impossible for large numbers of Virginians to exercise their fundamental right to vote. Poll taxes and literacy tests were hurdles that kept Virginians from participating in democracy and having a voice. Today we must find new ways to broaden political participation.

There are several easy steps that are tried and true in increasing voter participation that we in Virginia should look at adopting. We need

In Texas, voters can cast their ballots at "early vote" sites

14 days before election day. Mobile early vote vans travel into rural areas to make it easier for rural residents to cast their ballots. Texas also allows vote by mail over this early vote period.

to make the act of voting easier. In Oregon, Secretary of State Phil Keisling conducted a special election for the U.S. Senate in which ballots were cast entirely through the mail. All voters were sent a ballot and were able to participate at their convenience.

An University of Michigan/Oregon State University survey revealed that 61 percent of voters would prefer to cast their ballots by mail, while only 15 percent favored casting ballots at polling places.

In Texas, voters can cast their ballots at "early vote" sites 14 days before election day. Mobile early vote vans travel into rural areas to make it easier for rural residents to cast their ballots. Texas also allows vote by mail over this early

vote period.

Just this year an American astronaut was able to cast his ballot via a sophisticated form of E-mail that ensured the secrecy of his ballot. The technology exists for voters to cast their ballots online via E-mail or punch in their selection over the phone.

Virginia should make it easier for all of her citizens to participate in the political process. Mail in ballots, a 14-day early vote period with polling places open all day and voting by phone and E-mail, with proper security guarantees, can go a long way toward expanding voter participation.

Some Republicans have opposed efforts to expand the electorate, such as automatic voter registration at the DMV. The conventional wisdom was that the greater the voter turnout, the greater the Democratic vote. However, Scott Keeter, a polling expert from Virginia Commonwealth University, said that Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Gilmore might have won with an expanded electorate, because he also identified among those identified as high school graduates.

The fact is that expanded voter participation is just plain good government. It benefits not one party, but all Virginians. A democracy needs the consent and participation of the governed to succeed.

We must not become a government elected by the richer for the benefit of the richest. We are a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Let's make it easier for the people to decide.

Promises, promises.

Don't count on prez to keep word

It should come as no surprise, but Bill Clinton flat-out lied to the American people in 1995 when he sent troops to Bosnia and said that they would only be there for one year.

Then, shortly after he was re-elected last year, he extended them for another 18 months — and now he says he was "wrong" and wants an open-ended commitment to keep them there indefinitely.

He says that he was "wrong" as if it were just another mistake. I believe he intentionally lied and knew that those troops would be there for more than a year. Clinton brags about the progress that has been made in the two years that foreign troops have been in Bosnia. It is reported, if you can believe it, that U.S. soldiers have died from hostile fire in Bosnia.

Well, Bubba, I've got news for you. Thousands are dying over here from hostile fire. We are killing each other daily and some cities are gradually becoming no-man's lands.

Those 8,500 troops in Bosnia should be brought home to guard our public schools, daycare centers and post office. Children are no longer safe in our public schools, and you take your life in your own hands if you work at a U.S. post office. Drugs are pouring everyday from Mexico, and some of our troops could be used to guard the border.

Clinton plans to visit with the troops in Bosnia during Christmas week. That's real brave of him. He will have the luxury of Air Force 1, good food and security. His butt should have been on the front lines in Vietnam, but he chose not to visit at that time. In fact, he visited Russia who was providing arms to the North Vietnamese to kill Americans.

Clinton's weak position on Iraq is probably due to Saddam Hussein makes him look foolish at every turn. When it was reported that Iraq may have hidden weapons of mass destruction, including anthrax, what does our Commander-in-Chief do? He orders the military to vaccinate the troops.

What he should do is order our bomber pilots to make a parking lot out of Baghdad. A former president named Harry Truman had no compunction about using bombs when American lives were threatened. He leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki and Japan lost its taste for war. The same would happen to Iraq if Clinton had the guts to order such a strike. Since he does not, the job should be turned over to the Israelis, they could take care of Saddam Hussein in a matter of a few days, if not sooner.

On another subject, have you ever wondered what it is about Ali Gore that irritates you? It's his shifty eyes and sassy voice, that's what it is.

Welcome to the real world.

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Keeping it all together. By some grace of God, I have not gone loony in 1997 despite more commitments to church, clubs and organizations. That's a good thing.



Off The Cuff

By Victoria Hecht, editor

As the year winds down, I've made a list of all that is good and bad in my life. Now I'm going to concentrate on making the good better and the bad...well, good.

Doing a self-assessment, I believe, is a healthy holiday gift to oneself, even if we don't always like what ends up

on our list.

Personally, I like to hear good news before the bad, so I'll start off with the positive:

■ I (hopefully) do a good job of getting the word out, as reporters ought, but there's always room for improvement. Sure, there have been stories I missed. Then again, there are stories in which I had the "scoop" first. Let's go for more of the latter.

■ I'm concerned about folks. Hopefully, that's reflected in the way I live my life, treat others and in my writing. But every heart has room for more compassion. I'll open up some more space.

■ I have a particular concern for our four-legged friends. I am especially concerned about the welfare of God's innocent creatures. I'd love to give them all homes, but that's not feasible.

Instead, I'll keep lobbying for their cause and try to instruct others on the importance of neutering and spay-

ing, vaccinations and proper care. Yes, that includes making one's pet part of the family.

■ Keeping it all together. By some grace of God, I have not gone loony in 1997 despite more commitments to church, clubs and organizations. That's a good thing. Still, this is the weakest link in my life. I think

that doesn't mean there weren't those times when I had a good crying session. I must do whatever I can to uncomplicate my life. Actually, we all could probably follow that advice.

■ Lose weight. Yeah, right. This is the perennial goal, sad to say. But when the bones ache more and the back stays sore, there's got to be a reason other than age. Guess I could buy the latest Richard Simmons workout, which looks especially appealing this morning as I lugged at a particularly hateful zipper.

■ Eat better. Being on the road so much, I am prone to the downfall of most reporters — fast food. Lingering lunches are out of the question, although I could probably use that time to de-stress. Hmm, seems like all my veggies are starting to relate to my figure.

■ Gossip less. I admit it. I gossip, but then I feel badly about it. I always like that old line from "Fee Haw": "You'll never hear one of us repeating gossip, so you'd better be sure and listen close the first time." Funny? Yes. But gossip can be downright hateful, if not bad. I should reserve my comments.

■ Spending less and saving more. If it's a store, I'll go to it. More likely, I'll find something to buy. This is good for the economy but bad for the checkbook. It also makes for more clutter around the house, which leads to more stress... Hey, this us all starting to sound familiar.

■ Clean house and do laundry more often. As most folks know, I am not a fan of cleaning. I regard it as a necessary evil that I have grown to begrudge. But cleanliness is next to godliness, right?

Evan will agree with me on this pledge. He's tired of mounds of laundry and so am I. If I just did one load a night, think how easy life would be.

All these are a tall order, I know.

■ De-stressing. While I did a good job of holding it together this year,

Evan will agree with me on this pledge. He's tired of mounds of laundry and so am I. If I just did one load a night, think how easy life would be.

But with this column to reference frequently perhaps I will stay on track. Here's hoping in 1997! Wish me luck!

Santa Claus departs as Baby New Year arrives

I hope Santa Claus was good to you. Hey, if nothing else, you get a free chimney sweeping. You have to look at all the positive aspects of this.



Continuum

Dr. Raymond Jones, WIRB FM vice president and Great Bridge resident.

Those who are not absorbed by the endless chain of football battles and parades will be playing with their new toys. I'm not talking about kids.

'em go outside. They need the exercise.

The streets were full of kids on skates and new bikes and tossing footballs when I was young. Drive around the streets after Christmas these days and it looks as if some plague wiped out everybody under the age of eighteen.

Whatever your weekend holds after Christmas, the old year now has fled. It is a time to rest, to contemplate what was and that which will be. Resolutions for 1998 are as thick in the air as mosquitoes in steamy August.

A hearty thanks goes out, as always, to those folks who do work through the holidays. The law enforcement and fire personnel who keep us safe, the medical folks who tend to those who suffer during the holidays, the merchants who keep us supplied with power and fuel and food, the military who answer duty's call, and all who must keep things running and supplied — thanks go out to you.

To all along the continuum of life, Happy New Year!

food. Leftover potato salad and dressing and maybe a dillop or two of mashed potatoes, ready to be nuked back to life in that new microwave oven you got.

Second, there are the football bowls. Cotton Bowls and Peach Bowls and Sugar Bowls and Gator Bowls. I still think they should let the two worst teams in the nation play each other and call it the Toilet Bowl.

Those who are not absorbed by the endless chain of football battles and parades will be playing with their new toys. I'm not talking about kids. I'm talking about the grown-ups with their exercise machines and bandsaws and camcorders and computers.

Clicking and whirring and thumping merrily along, this new wave of toys will keep adults plenty busy until New Year's Eve. The kids? Make

Bowl for Kids' Sake gears up at Chesapeake Lanes soon

Bowl for Kids' Sake is an event designed for fun and teamwork to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Hampton Roads.

The concept is simple — a team of four individuals collect pledges from friends, family, business associates and neighbors and bowl two games in two hours. It doesn't matter if you are a good or bad bowler, the score doesn't come into play. All that matters is that you are encouraging others to put a friend in a child's life. In exchange, Big Brothers Big Sisters will pay for the games, the rental shoes and give each individual that raises a

minimum of \$50 a Big Brothers Big Sisters T-shirt.

The date is set for Feb. 7 at the AMF Chesapeake Lanes, 112 Battlefield Blvd. There are two time slots available: 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. There will be face painting, balloons and raffles. There will also be prizes awarded for the team and the individual that brings in the most money.

Corporate sponsorships are available. Call Michele Arthur, 490-5437, for more information. A representative from our agency will be contacting you in the next week or so to find out your interest.

Athletes get jump on competition

Greenbrier Christian Academy now offers its student athletes a new way to get a jump on the college competition through the Online Scouting Network, a nationwide database that will allow student athletes to post their athletic resumes on the internet.

"It is an excellent opportunity for our students," GCA Athletic Director Ed Bailey said. "GCA

athletes will have the opportunity to display their abilities to all colleges and universities in any division across the nation. We hope they will take advantage of this network immediately."

The network is available to all GCA athletes in grades 9 to 12. Students may update their profile up to five times a year free of charge.



A hearty "thanks"

Chesapeake City Treasurer Barbara O. Carraway hosted a brunch for her employees recently as a way of saying thank you for their hard work and a job well done throughout the year. Several awards were presented. Devon Johnson, Gay Riddick, Carol Blair and Nanette Cartwright were each presented with an Outstanding Attendance Award. The "Whatever It Takes" Award was presented to Brenda Jones and Willis Bell from their supervisors. Carraway presented Carol Blair, right, with the Employee of the Year Award. Blair is supervisor of the South Norfolk Branch of the Treasurer's Office and is frequently complimented by citizens for her warm, caring approach to serving others.

Up close and personal

Bill Graham: A smooth transition

By Victoria Hecht

Editor

The passage from high school to college, professional training or the workforce is a big change for young men and women, but Bill Graham is there to ease the transition at the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center.

"It's basically doing everything with the student, from his or her leaving the center to what they do afterward. It deals with employers and continuing education, because everything we do goes into our mission: Quality employment and lifelong learning," the Chesapeake resident said.

As school to work transition coordinator, Graham works directly with the center's tools for a successful entry into the world of work — mentoring, job shadowing, career training.

"The way we look at it, the bottom line of education is employment, not college," Graham explained. "College may be one of the tools used to get employment, but we look at the student as a success if he or she is ever employed, which may include taking on college, continuing education or post-secondary learning."

About 37 percent of last year's graduates from the Career and Technical Education Center went on to full-time employment, while another 31 percent chose community college. Still another 14 percent are attending a four-year college, and 8 percent are in post-secondary school. Just 7 percent were undecided or chose other alternatives.

"The trend today is for students with post-secondary education and skills, but not necessarily a four-year college degree," Graham said.

Virginia Beach students early on can see the possibilities in a technical or career education.

"They don't have to be here; they select to be here. We have a waiting list every year now," Graham said. "So we must be doing something right. It's a team effort."

The center prepares teens in 28 different occupations, running the gamut from construction to computer networking to cosmetology. Graham is the critical link between the classroom, internships, off-campus community projects that offer work experience, industry certification courses and the world of employment.

Many students graduate from college today and don't have jobs. What they end up doing is going to private schools and pay \$60,000 a year for skills which they could have had free in high school. Sometimes the students don't realize the bargain they're getting here, even though it's a win-win for everybody."

Graham, who considers himself a "people person," enjoys the opportunity to get out of the office and see students hands-on in work environments.

"It's nothing artificial. I'm getting out and actually seeing the employers, students, and teachers."

Graham has held the school to work transition position for four years at the center. Before that he held a similar job at the administrative level. He is a long-time administrator.

"I graduated from high school when the Vietnam War was going on. We had a decision at the time, college or war. I decided on Old Dominion University. In my junior year I decided to go into education," he said.

With diploma in hand Graham's first teaching position was at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake, where he remained for 11 years. In 1980, he came to the Virginia Beach schools, where he led a central placement office operating from the Career Development Center. When that office was dissolved he went to the Technical and Career Education Center.

As the school year nears its second half, Graham is busy compiling data and calling on potential employers. Year-round, he also fields calls from local businesses seeking skilled workers.

The biggest selling point for the center is its product — the students — who are trained in small classes in intensive three-hour blocks.

"When you mix education with the skills they get here, they (the students) have got a good start," he noted. "Education is the way to go, but employment is the bottom line."

Name: R. William Graham.

What brought you to this area: I was one of the few people who was born, raised and live in the Hampton Roads lower tri-city areas of Norfolk, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach. I was born in Norfolk, worked in Chesapeake and Virginia Beach and have lived in all three areas — presently in the Great Bridge section of Chesapeake.

Hometown: Norfolk (South Bayview). I attended Norview High School.

Age: I hate to say it, 50! But I feel 25 years younger.

Nickname: Friends I grew up with over the years still call me Billy. Today I go by Bill, but R. William Graham is on my checks.

Occupation: I have been in education since 1969. For my first 11



years I was a teacher at Oscar Smith High School. I came to the Beach in 1980 and have been here in various positions since then.

Pet peeves: My main pet peeve is people promoting themselves at the expense of others. Other pet peeves include artificialness, politically-correct responses (especially dealing with major city, state, nation or world problems), constantly inventing new programs rather than fine tuning existing programs, and short-term solutions that look good on paper rather than long-term solutions that would work.

First job:

Before graduating from college, my first part-time job was while in high school working as desk clerk for the Beachcomber Motel. My first career job was as a history and social sciences teacher at Oscar Smith High School.

Worst job: Before graduation from college, my worst job was my only one-day job with the railroad. During the summer before my senior year I worked for one day with an old timer who broke me in with railway cars. I had my shirt burned, my clothes torn and more coal on my entire body than around the track!

Favorite sports team: Professionally, I like the Washington Redskins. However, I do not have season tickets. Luckily, I have been able to attend a few games. On the collegiate level I enjoy watching college basketball (Duke) and Old Dominion's men's and women's teams and football (Nebraska). In addition, I enjoy watching tennis matches, especially the Grand Slam ones.

Favorite musicians: My musicians vary as much as my music. Country and Western is great; my favorite group is Sawyer Brown. Barry Manilow is my favorite for easy listening music. The Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, and Crosby, Stills and Nash are my favorite "flashes from the past." In Christian music I like the vocal band Gaither and Dallas Holm.

Most embarrassing moment: One time, years ago, I was out fishing in a boat in the Willoughby Bay with a co-worker and our principal. At the conclusion of the day before we started back, I stood up in the boat to shake their hands and thank them for their company. While standing up I lost my balance and did a backward flip into the water. I also drowned swimming back to the boat while I kept hearing "Where did he go?" in the midst of the laughter.

How I would like to be remembered: As a friend and someone who focused on the good of people rather than constantly looking for the bad.

If I received \$1 million: I would probably die of excitement. However, if I lived I would help out family, retire and allow my hobbies to become my new full-time work.

If I have 10 minutes on national television: I would like to anchor the national evening news or broadcast a national basketball or football game. If a local television station would give me the chance, I would be just as happy!

Ideal vacation: In the winter my ideal vacation would be to go back to New Hampshire and spend some time in the Follensbee Inn. This was a great little inn with good food, people and near some nice ski slopes. In the summer my ideal vacation would be to return to Hawaii and stay on the beach. However, Avon, N.C. is also heaven on

Marital Status: Married to Andi.

Children: Matt is 16 years old and a junior at Great Bridge High School. I am proud to say that he is an honor student, in the award-winning Great Bridge High School Marching Band, on the boys tennis team (went to state last year) and on the junior class council.

Favorite authors: James Patterson, Sandra Brown and Robert Daley are my favorite authors. However, I look at Barnes and Noble frequently for other national best-selling authors.

Favorite night on the town: A Broadway play at Chrysler Hall or an evening of opera at the Harrison Opera House would be a special night out.

Favorite restaurant: My favorite restaurant is Court House Café in Great Bridge. The people are friendly and courteous. In addition, just about every day I drop by the Greenbrier Country Club, my home away from home!

Favorite meal and beverage: At Court House Café my favorite meal is to split a seafood platter and have a cold Heineken. At Greenbrier Country Club my favorite meal is a good old chicken salad sandwich and a double gin and tonic.

What most people don't know about me: I walk out six days a week at Greenbrier Country Club, I am usually there at 6 a.m. before work. In addition, some days of the week I will go there in the afternoon for another workout. I guess we can call that an example of obsessive-compulsive behavior.

Best thing about myself: I try to accept people as they are, be outgoing with others, and try to have a positive outlook each day. "Every day is a good day."

Worst habit: I have a terrible sense of direction.

Pets: We have a lovable dog named Benji and a cat named Sammy. The dog thinks she is a cat and the cat thinks she is a dog. The dog also eats the cat food in addition to her own.

Hobbies: I love to read and workout throughout the year. In the summer my favorite hobby also includes being in the sun as much as possible. I also have enjoyed emceeing work for various organizations, announcing ODU basketball and singing for weddings or in a praise team at church. And, watching our son grow up!

Joshua Ministries spreads the cheer

By Sabrina Smith

Correspondent

"All I want for Christmas is . . ."

The phrase has been heard by almost every parent around the country. Parents who are financially able try to get their children almost everything they want for Christmas. But what can be done for those families who cannot grant their children's wishes? The Joshua Ministries in Virginia Beach, made up of volunteers from various church congregations in the Tidewater community, has been working since 1995 helping the less fortunate and families who have live in low-income communities. Volunteers have provided free lunches for children and distributed food baskets and bags of groceries throughout the year, not just during the holiday season.

Last weekend residents from the Atlantis Apartments received the services that this ministry provides during the holiday season. The Rev. Gary Reilly arrived in front of the apartment complex's rental office and began unloading large brown boxes from his van. As children walked toward the office, Reilly, with 7-year-old daughter, Faith Ann, walked into the office and placed the boxes on a table. The parents of the children lined them up in a single file line

awaiting the moment when Santa Claus stepped out of the van.

Before Santa could visit with children, he made a special appearance in the rental office. Nine families who live in the Atlantis Apartments were given a special invitation by the Joshua Ministries to meet with Santa and receive special gifts for their children.

"Hi, Deshawn," said Santa, who was really 19 year old Benjamin Harper, the ministries' children's lay pastor, in disguise.

Before the youngster could tell Santa what he wanted, Reilly, dressed as Santa helpful little elf, stood in front of the pair with a Polaroid camera.

"Say Jesus!" Reilly said.

"Jesus!" said Deshawn with a huge grin plastered on his face as the camera's flash lit the room.

Just as Santa thought the pictures were over, another admirer came and sat on his lap to request a gift.

"Santa, can I tell you what I want for Christmas?" asked program coordinator asked Sarah Friend. "I want a husband!"

Santa and his elf could not help but laugh at this rare request.

When Santa and Reilly went back outside to see the other guests, they notice the line was twice as long as it was before they went into the rental office. Some children pushed and shoved, others cried, while many laughed and talked to the other children in line



SPREADING CHEER. Santa hears the holiday wishes of Sarah Friend during a Joshua Ministries visit to low-income communities in Virginia Beach.

"We are demonstrating God's compassion on children through acts kindness."

The Rev. Gary Reilly,
Joshua Ministries

with them. The children asked for many gifts that were soon repeated just as soon as another child took a seat on Santa's lap. The children's gift wishes ranged from a Sony Playstation and television set to a Nintendo 64 and in-line skates.

As soon as Christopher Hill was placed on Santa's lap, the small baby took one look up at who was holding him and began to scream and stretch his arms out to his mother.

After handing out more than 60 presents to the children, Reilly finally had a chance to load up his remaining boxes of gifts and prepare to travel to the next neighborhood on the list.

"We're going to the Harpers Square Apartments, then Friendship Village and Triangle Trailer Park," said Reilly.

Because Reilly can relate to the hardships of the families he helps, he finds his mission more important every day. Neither Reilly nor his wife Charlene Reilly are

strangers to low-income communities.

"My wife and I both grew up in families on welfare," he said. "We know how it is."

With the help of several sponsors such as Lillian Vernon, Roses, Operation Blessing and McDonald's, who donated toys and other presents, the Joshua Ministries were able to provide these children with a positive head start on Christmas.

Reilly works during the entire year providing food and gifts for the needy. He constantly reminds the individuals of the Joshua Ministries' mission in helping the less fortunate.

"We are demonstrating God's compassion on children through acts kindness," said Reilly. "We offer a hand up, not a hand out."

More than 1,200 gifts were donated for this project and another 300 were donated for the individual families who were selected by the management teams at the different apartment complexes to receive special help.

The Joshua Ministries gave presents and received smiles, donated their time, and received plenty of "thank yous." Now all they have to do is work a little magic and grant Delinda Bynum's mother Patricia a special Christmas wish.

"Go sit on Santa's lap and tell him you want a house for Mommy!" Bynum told her daughter.

Son's lifesaving gift

Continued From Page 1

address, a 911 lesson Michael learned in a Head Start program two years ago triggered the call.

The 911 operator kept Michael on the line long enough for police to trace the address. A few minutes later, Sherita was in the hospital and Michael was a hero.

Michael's actions were no surprise to his first grade teacher at Parkway, Melissa Pezzella.

Impressed by Michael's maturity,

she made him the student responsible for notifying school authorities about any possible emergency that might arise in her room, standard policy for every classroom in the building housing 795 students in kindergarten through grade five.

"He's very responsible,"

Pezzella said. "He's a serious child. He has that air about him of staying calm and not going crazy."

Why Michael called 911 for

this attack and no other is an unanswered question for Vincent,

who likes to believe that God played a role in preserving his relationship with Sherita as well as keeping her healthy.

"She hasn't coughed, hasn't

taken any asthma medications

since then and doctors don't

moved from one apartment in the

West Canal Apartments in

Virginia Beach to another and Michael couldn't remember the know why," Vincent said. "If you go and talk to the doctors, they shake their heads, because they don't know."

There are also other mysteries: Sherita has not had an attack since October, though the forecast for a rainy day used to be an early warning sign for an asthma attack in the past.

The now-healed incision on Sherita's neck that has taken the shape of a cross also has the family wondering about its meaning, but not baffled. Their belief in God may have something to do with that.

"For people who know her, it's a testimony, because everyone is in despair right now as everyone has problems," Vincent said. "Once you sit still and think about it, the way I think about it is to be still, and let the Lord do His work."

While still faced with overwhelming bills, the loss of her Social Security benefits because of an administrative glitch, and no health insurance, Sherita has found the strength to continue through her son, Vincent, and God.

"I'm just happy to be here," Sherita said. "That's one thing I'm grateful for — that I'm here to celebrate it with them."

Library book sale slated

Continued From Page 1

be sold, raising about \$15,000 for library-sponsored events.

Mr. Crabtree sees people lining up early as 5:30 a.m. in past years just to get a shot at being first in line.

"I look at it this way," said Crabtree. "I don't think it makes much difference. For people who are looking for books or educational material, it's all there. There's a broad variety of books available. It doesn't matter if you come to the door with \$5 or \$500."

Actually, 50 cents is enough to buy a paperback book, while hardback books go for \$1. Admission is free, and there is no limit to the number of books that can be purchased.

Crabtree estimated 100,000 cards will be available at the sale. Most have either been

donated by the public or purged from the library shelves.

Because of the enormity of the event, 350 volunteers from the Friends of the Virginia Beach Library will be on hand to answer questions.

Also, there are a few ground rules patrons should be aware of.

The Pavilion Convention Center won't admit anyone before 8 a.m., and no courtesy tickets will be distributed easily, as they were allowed in the past.

To control crowds, a lottery procedure has been established whereby a pavilion staff member will ask everyone present to form a line.

Staff member will move down the line, distributing a predetermined amount of tickets and issuing one ticket per customer. All customers must be at least 12 years old to get a ticket.

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burglary or any other crime, call
Crime Solvers at 427-0000.

property located on the south side of Indian River Road, west of West Neck Road. Said parcel is located at 2765 Indian River Road and contains 35.06 acres. PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH.

7. An Ordinance upon Application of Heritage Christian Academy, Inc., for a Conditional Use Permit for a private school on the west side of Salem Road, north of Winston Avenue. Said parcel is located at 2751 Salem Road and contains 3.69 acres. PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

Ruth Hodges Smith, CMC/AE
City Clerk

If you are physically disabled or visually impaired and need assistance at this meeting, please call the CITY CLERK'S OFFICE at 427-4303; Hearing impaired, call TDD only at 427-4303 (TDD - Telephonic Device for the Deaf).

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Public Notice

The Virginia Beach Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 14, 1998 at 12:00 Noon in the Council Chambers of the City Hall Building, Princess Anne Courthouse, Virginia Beach, Virginia. A briefing session will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the City Manager's Conference Room, City Hall Building. PLANNING COMMISSION ACTIONS IS NOT A FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE APPLICATION, BUT ONLY A RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL AS THE VIEWPOINT OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE APPLICATION IS TO BE MADE BY CITY COUNCIL AT A LATER DATE, AFTER PUBLIC NOTICE IN A NEWSPAPER HAVING GENERAL CIRCULATION WITHIN THE CITY.

THOSE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT, FOR REASONS THE PLANNING COMMISSION DEEMS APPROPRIATE, CERTAIN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE HEARD OUT OF ORDER AND THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED THAT THE ORDER LISTED BELOW WILL BE EXACTLY FOLLOWED DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING.

The staff reviews of some or all of the items on this agenda suggest that certain conditions be attached to approval by City Council. However, it should be assumed that those conditions constitute all the conditions that will ultimately be attached to the project. Staff agencies may impose further conditions and requirements during administration of applicable city ordinances.

SUBDIVISION VARIANCE:

1. Appeal from Decisions of Administrative Officers in regard to certain elements of the Subdivision Ordinance, Subdivision for Helen E. Dozier. Property is located at 590 & 592 Princess Anne Road, PUNGO BOROUGH.

2. Appeal from Decisions of Administrative Officers in regard to certain elements of the Subdivision Ordinance, Subdivision for George Newsome Luxury Homes L.L.C. Property is located at the southeastern extremity of Collins Lane. LYNNHAVEN BOROUGH.

3. Appeal from Decisions of Administrative Officers in regard to certain elements of the Subdivision Ordinance, Subdivision for Kevin & Amy Riccio. Property is located on the east side of Little Haven Road, north of Quail Run Quay. LYNNHAVEN BOROUGH.

4. Appeal from Decisions of Administrative Officers in regard to certain elements of the Subdivision Ordinance, Subdivision for Mark King. Property is located at 625 Heron Point circle, KEMPSVILLE BOROUGH.

5. An Ordinance upon Application of Statement LTD for a Change of Zoning District Classification from O-2 Office District to Conditional B-1A Limited Community Business District on Lot 5, Freemac Lake Shores. The proposed zoning classification change to Conditional B-1A is for limited commercial land use. The Comprehensive Plan recommends use of this parcel for marketplace corridor use in accordance with other Plan policies. Said parcel is located at 1361 Laskin Road and contains 2.779 acres. KEMPSVILLE BOROUGH.

6. An Ordinance upon Application of Tidewater Korean Baptist Church Trustees for a Conditional Use Permit for a church expansion at the southwest intersection of Overland Road and Okengate Drive. Said parcel is located at 301 Overland Road and contains 2.779 acres. KEMPSVILLE BOROUGH.

7. An Ordinance upon Application of SAR, L.L.C. for a Conditional Use Permit for housing for the aged, disabled and handicapped on certain property located on the west side of Chimney Hill Parkway beginning at a point 230 feet more or less south of Holland Road. Said parcel contains 3.372 acres. KEMPSVILLE BOROUGH.

PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH

8. An Ordinance upon Application of Nextel Communications, Inc., for a Conditional Use Permit for a monopole and communications equipment shelter on certain

Residential Single Family District on Lots 5 & 6, Morgan Terrace. Said parcel is located at 1139 Carver Avenue and contains 16,000 square feet more or less. LYNNHAVEN BOROUGH.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT:
7. An Ordinance upon Application of Enterprise Rent A Car/Leasing Company of Norfolk/Richmond for a Conditional Use Permit for a private school on the west side of Salem Road, north of Winston Avenue. Said parcel is located at 2751 Salem Road and contains 3.69 acres. PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

Ruth Hodges Smith, CMC/AE
City Clerk

If you are physically disabled or visually impaired and need assistance at this meeting, please call the CITY CLERK'S OFFICE at 427-4303; Hearing impaired, call TDD only at 427-4303 (TDD - Telephonic Device for the Deaf).

52-2

21-2

side of Virginia Beach Boulevard, 260 feet more or less east of Kings Grant Road. Said parcel is located at 2981 Virginia Beach Boulevard and contains 34,281.7 square feet. LYNNHAVEN BOROUGH.

DEFERRED BY PLANNING COMMISSION ON 12/10/97
20. An Ordinance upon Application of Davissville Properties, L.L.C. for a Change of Zoning District Classification from R-10 Residential District and B-2 Community Business District to Conditional B-2 Community Business District at the southwest intersection of First Colonial Road and Republic Road. The proposed zoning classification change to Conditional B-2 is for commercial land use. The Comprehensive Plan recommends use of this parcel for automobile rentals on the south side of Virginia Beach Boulevard, west of Cleveland Avenue. Said property is located at 5329 Virginia Beach Boulevard and contains 27,673.6 square feet. KEMPSVILLE BOROUGH.

8. An Ordinance upon Application of Sprint, P.C.S., for a Conditional Use Permit for a wireless communication cell tower on the west side of Princess Anne Road, south of Providence Road. Said parcel is located at 4422 Princess Anne Road and contains 4.487 acres. KEMPSVILLE BOROUGH.

9. An Ordinance upon Application of To-Go-Inc., for a Conditional Use Permit for motor vehicle rentals (U-Haul) at the northeast intersection of Virginia Beach Boulevard and Newtown Road. Said parcel is located at 5650 Virginia Beach Boulevard and contains 1.015 acres. BAYSIDE BOROUGH.

10. An Ordinance upon Application of TAAC Associates, Inc., for a Conditional Use Permit for a self-storage facility on the north side of Newtown Road, east of Lynbrook Landing. Said parcel is located at 875 Newtown Road and contains 21,649.32 square feet. BAYSIDE BOROUGH.

11. An Ordinance upon Application of Kenneth R. Sims, c/o Custom Store Co., Inc., for a Conditional Use Permit for a contractor's storage yard at the southeast corner of Central Drive and Quality Court on Parcel 43, London Bridge Industrial Park II. Said parcel contains 9.911 acres. PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH.

12. An Ordinance upon Application of Nextel Communications, Inc., for a Conditional Use Permit for a Colocated wireless communication antenna on certain property located at the southeastern intersection of S. Rosemont Road and Dam Neck Road. Said parcel contains 2.154 acres. PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH.

13. An Ordinance upon Application of Frontorch Church for a Conditional Use Permit for a church on the north side of Strawbridge Road, west of General Booth Boulevard. Said parcel is located at 2133 General Booth Boulevard and contains 4,5071 acres. PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH.

14. An Ordinance upon Application of Sprint, P.C.S., for a Conditional Use Permit for a wireless communication cell tower on property located 960 feet more or less west of the intersection of Dam Neck Station Road and General Booth Boulevard. Said parcel is located at 1525 General Booth Boulevard and contains 5.490 acres. PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH.

15. An Ordinance upon Application of Allen R. Baer for a Conditional Use Permit for a car wash and automotive repair facility on certain property located on the south side of Tiffany Lane, east of Diamond Lane. Said parcel contains 2.546 acres. KEMPSVILLE & PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH.

16. An Ordinance upon Application of All Saints' Episcopal Church for a Conditional Use Permit for a church expansion at the northwest intersection of Woodside Land and Adam Keeling Road. Said parcel is located at 1968 Woodside Lane and contains 5 acres. LYNNHAVEN BOROUGH.

17. An Ordinance upon Application of Sprint, P.C.S., for a Conditional Use Permit for a wireless communication cell tower on Lot 11, London Bridge Industrial Park. Said parcel is located at 409 First Colonial Road and contains 4,1896 acres. LYNNHAVEN BOROUGH.

18. An Ordinance upon Application of Nextel Communications, Inc., for a Conditional Use Permit for a wireless communications monopole at the southwest intersection of Norfolk-Virginia Beach Expressway and First Colonial Road. Said parcel is located at 409 First Colonial Road and contains 4,1896 acres. LYNNHAVEN BOROUGH.

19. An Ordinance upon Application of Checkered Flag Motor Car Company, Inc., for a Conditional Use Permit for automobile sales, repair and service, sale of parts and parking & storage of vehicles on the south

side of Virginia Beach Boulevard, 260 feet more or less east of Kings Grant Road. Said parcel is located at 2981 Virginia Beach Boulevard and contains 34,281.7 square feet. LYNNHAVEN BOROUGH.

classification change to I-1 is for light industrial land use. The Comprehensive Plan recommends use of this parcel for Suburban Medium Density Residential at densities that are compatible with single-family use in accordance with other Plan policies. Said parcel contains 1 acre. LYNNHAVEN BOROUGH.

20. An Ordinance upon Application of Davisville Properties, L.L.C., for a Change of Zoning District Classification from R-10 Residential District and B-2 Community Business District to Conditional B-2 Community Business District at the southwest intersection of First Colonial Road and Republic Road. The proposed zoning classification change to Conditional B-2 is for commercial land use. The Comprehensive Plan recommends use of this parcel for automobile rentals on the south side of Virginia Beach Boulevard, west of Cleveland Avenue. Said property is located at 5329 Virginia Beach Boulevard and contains 27,673.6 square feet. KEMPSVILLE BOROUGH.

21. An Ordinance upon Application of Windsor Oaks West, Parcel 2 L.L.C., for a Change of Zoning District Classification from B-2 Community Business District to Conditional A-18 Apartment District on certain property located at the northeast corner of Holland Road and Shoreline Court. The proposed zoning classification change to Conditional A-18 is for multi-family land use at a density no greater than 18 dwelling units per acre. The Comprehensive Plan recommends use of this parcel for marketplace corridor use in accordance with other Plan policies. Said parcel contains 2,579 acres. PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH.

22. An Ordinance upon Application of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia to amend the boundaries of the Princess Anne County Courthouse Historic and Cultural Overlay District (HCOD), by adding and/or deleting the HCOD from all or a portion of the following parcels of land:
GPIN 1493 79 2102 0000, 94,530 acres located at 2357 West Neck Road;
GPIN 1494 34 1160 0000, 414,303 acres located north of North Landing Road and west of Princess Anne Road.
GPIN 1494 61 6777 0000, 92,263 acres located north of North Landing Road and west of West Neck Road extended;
GPIN 1494 53 5782 0000, 16,682 acres located at 2673 Princess Anne Road;
GPIN 1494 54 9202 0000, 1,320 acres located 620 feet more or less west of Princess Anne Road and 650 feet more or less north of Judicial Blvd.;
GPIN 1494 54 4151 0000, 3 acres located at 2673 Princess Anne Road;

GPIN 1494 60 5833 0000, 1,161 acres located at 2628 North Landing Road;
GPIN 1494 61 6856 0000, 20,260 acres located north of North Landing Road and east of West Neck Road extended;

GPIN 1494 63 1439 0000, 7,490 acres located 580 feet more or less west of Princess Anne Road and 650 feet more or less north of Judicial Blvd.;
GPIN 1494 63 3867 0000, 1 acre more or less located at 2621 Princess Anne Road.

GPIN 1494 64 6109 0000, 1,630 acres located at 2625 Princess Anne Road;
GPIN 1494 64 4297 0000, .2 acres located at 2629 Princess Anne Road;

GPIN 1494 64 2494 0000, 1 acre more or less located at 2641 Princess Anne Road;

GPIN 1494 64 1457 0000, 9,867 acres located at 2641 Princess Anne Road;

GPIN 1494 64 7680 0000, 410 acres located at 2624 Princess Anne Road;

GPIN 1494 70 4773 0000, 4 acres located at the southeast corner of West Neck Road and North Landing Road;

GPIN 1494 70 3383 0000, .4 acres more or less located at 2629 West Neck Road;

GPIN 1494 71 4902 0000, 5,657 acres located at 2509 George Mason Drive;

GPIN 1494 71 1651 0000, 3,933 acres located 380 feet southwest of George Mason Drive, approximately 500 feet north of North Landing Road;

GPIN 1494 74 4346 0000, 4,872 acres located at the north quadrant of the intersection of Princess Anne Road and Ferrell Parkway;

GPIN 1494 74 0980 0000, 2,776 acres located at 2612 Princess Anne Road;

GPIN 1494 74 0929 0000, .4 acre more or less located at 2309 Morgan Meadows Ct;

GPIN 2404 03 8344 0000, 2 acres more or less located at 2365 Princess Anne Road;

GPIN 2404 03 6378 0000, 2,460 acres located at 2369 Princess Anne Road;

GPIN 2404 03 5242 0000, 2,7 acres located at 2373 Princess Anne Road;

GPIN 2404 04 3476 0000, 4,48 acres located at 2356 Holland Road;

GPIN 2404 04 4105 0000, 1,031 acres located at 2224 Holland Road;

GPIN 2404 04 7298 0000, 13,990 acres located on the north side of Princess Anne Road, 160 feet more or less east of Holland Road.

The proposed changes to the Historic & Cultural District boundaries do not change the underlying zoning classification, permitted usage or density of the property. PRINCESS ANNE BOROUGH.

REGULAR AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

30. An Ordinance to amend the preamble of the Subdivision Ordinance pertaining to reference to Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia.

31. An Ordinance to amend the City Zoning Ordinance pertaining to references to Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia. Sections amended are the Preamble and Sections 102(6), 105(d) and (e)(1), 106(a) and (b), and 107(c).

32. An Ordinance to amend the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Ordinance pertaining to references to Code of Virginia Section 15.2, §§110, 110(B) and 114 (c).

All interested parties are invited to attend.

Robert J. Scott
Planning Director

Copies of the proposed ordinances, resolution and amendments are on file and may be examined in the Department of Planning. For information call 427-4621.

If you are physically disabled or visually impaired and need assistance at this meeting, please call the CITY CLERK'S OFFICE at 427-4303. Hearing impaired, call: TDD only at 427-4305. (TDD - Telephonic Device for the Deaf);

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BUSINESS REVIEW

Bluewater Seafood & Take-Out Royce & Nancy Leary, Owners

Capture the flavor of the sea with fresh seafood of every imaginable type from Bluewater Seafood & Take-Out, located in Virginia Beach at 6661 Indian River Road, phone 424-9200, and at 1920 Centerville Turnpike in the Woods Corner Shopping Center, phone 479-2823. The most complete selection of seafood in this area is available here. You will find the quality of their seafood high and their freshness unequalled.

Bluewater Seafood & Take-Out features many delicious favorites such as all types of fillets and cooking fish as well as shrimp, oysters in the shell, snow crab legs, king crab legs, crab claws, crab cakes, party trays and many hot home-made items. The management of Bluewater Seafood & Take-Out has built a good reputation over the past 18 years throughout the Virginia Beach area for serving seafood lover honesty and with the largest selection and finest quality seafood available. They will gladly steam or fry your order for a minimum charge plus the price of your choice of fish, and they'll also cater any special orders including 50 pounds of trout for \$35.00 and a delicious trout platter at the Woods Corner location only for \$1.99.

Keep Bluewater Seafood & Take-Out in mind as the place to go seven days a week for the best seafood in this area. You'll be hooked by their quality, selection and reasonable prices.

Land House decks the halls for Twelfth Night

Continued From Page 1

staircases, and mantels while clusters of greenery and swags were used outside the home for ornamentation.

"We like to show different kinds of things at the Land House because people come to get ideas for decorating their own homes," Harvey noted.

"Our decorations are done by the Council of Garden Clubs. They typically come in on the first Friday in December because we have an open house that first weekend, and they get us all decked for the holidays; it's absolutely beautiful," Harvey smiled.

When visitors comment on the beauty of the decorations and the pleasant fragrance that the natural decorations bring to the Land House, it pleases Harvey and her staff.

"It makes us feel great; we love doing things here that cause people to see the house in a different way," she insisted.

"The one thing that probably bugs me the most," she said, "is hearing somebody say 'We've been to the Francis Land House. We don't need to go back,'" she admitted.

"The Francis Land House does different things year round, and every time you come you're going



WELCOME, FRIENDS. The pineapple became the undisputed symbol of hospitality in 18th-century Virginia. But other fruits, nuts and greenery were popular house adornments, too.



Photo by Bob Ruessinger

TIS THE SEASON. Susan Tebort, assistant education specialist at the Francis Land House, examines a wreath of greenery made of cedar, holly, magnolia leaves and lemons with anticipation of a festive Twelfth Night celebration.

were removed from the house and customarily burned outside in a bonfire.

Some components of the Twelfth Night observance at the Land House vary from year to year.

This year the play portion ("Love and Marriage 18th Century-Style" written by Karen Pollard) of the Twelfth Night celebration is set in the 1750s.

In the 18th century, celebrations of Christmas began on Christmas Eve when greens were brought into the house for decking. While the greens were symbolic of everlasting life, they also helped to dispel the enmity of winter and to freshen the house. The Yule log was also brought in and lit on Christmas Eve and was — at least in theory — kept lit until Twelfth Night. Traditionally, the Yule log was lit with a brand, a remnant of the Yule log from the previous year.

Christmas Day was reserved for attending church services, and 18th century Virginians celebrated intermittently through the holidays. The Twelfth Night festivities were the culmination of the holiday season, and the greens

are being asked for in marriage," she said.

"We will see a widower from Princess Anne County who has recently heard that someone has been widowed and might make a good match, and we'll see how people in the slave community deal with marriage," Harvey recalled.

"We have always tried to show through the play how everybody's life is affected by what is happening," Harvey stressed. "So that it's never just the story of the gentry or the middle class or the slaves," she explained. "Because when you tell the story of an 18th-century plantation you really need to know what everybody is doing and how everybody's lives are affected by what's going on around them," she continued.

"Then it becomes a whole picture. We don't want a piecemeal history," concluded Harvey.

Harvey and her staff cordially invite the public to step back in time and meet Francis Land and his plantation family at the Twelfth

Night celebration at the Land House, burn the Christmas greens in a bonfire, and toast the new year with cider.

Guests are also invited to dance with the Williamsburg Heritage

Dance Ensemble, enjoy music supplied by Bob Clark and the Princess Anne High School Madrigals, and sample the Twelfth Night cake provided by the Friends of the Francis Land House.

School, soldiers team up

Continued From Page 1

school helping kindergartners go through the lunch line and open milk cartons," she said. "They are members of the PTA, tutors, speakers and recess volunteers. They helped carry boxes when we moved into a new part of the building. On Family Night or Spaghetti Night, they came after just getting back from deployment to help serve and even mopped floors. And they are always here with smiles."

In addition, the soldiers are involved in Arbor Day where the school plants a tree at Ft. Story and Ft. Story plants a tree at the school. On Career Day, the soldiers meet with fifth graders to answer any questions about the military and makes plans to bring those students to the base. The soldiers are also involved on transportation day, demonstrating their vehicles to the students. And the students have also taken a fun and historical trip to Ft. Story.

But, best of all, the soldiers are there for a student who needs a special friend or a little encouragement.

SPC Eric Andrews coordinates the volunteers from Ft. Story, and he is on top of things. He often goes to the school four days a week.

"I can call him on Monday and I have a volunteer by Wednesday," Bryson said.

Andrews loves the partnership and described it as a "big family." He is a single parent of an 8-year-old son and had never volunteered before.

LTC Jim Fleming also puts his stamp of approval on the program and he is actively involved. He also volunteers and frequently goes to the school to have lunch with his 10-year-old daughter. He encourages other military parents to do the same.

Fleming said the key is command involvement and approval. He says "it's OK to go spend some time with your kids."

"When the kids see dad or mom or someone they recognize frequently at school, it makes them think education is important," he said.

Fleming also acknowledged that military parents "are gone a lot."

"We miss birthdays and recitals," he said.

So they appreciate spending time with their children when they can.

Of the 830 students at John B. Dey, 175 are from military families.

Fleming also noted the key to success of the program is that it is well-planned out, there is consistency, education is a priority and it encourages community involvement.

The school recently showed their appreciation by delivering 24 trays of Christmas cookies to the soldiers, and the children often write to the soldiers when they are deployed. But the children's smiles and thank yous are the best rewards.

— Home Improvement —

'Plant' this idea: new uses for those old household items

By Diane Relf
Extension Service

The most-appreciated addition to my containers is my gutter garden. The old sectional gutters that always leak are being replaced by seamless gutters. I rescued one of these old gutters and hung it on the wooden railing on my deck using the same method as construction people used to put it to its original use. I have the advantage in that I want it to leak. Filled with synthetic soil mixes, it provides a perfect site for impatiens, petunias or begonias. The plants need to be watered frequently, but they make a real showpiece.

You can also use 55-gallon drums as containers. Cutting the drum in two and smoothing the edges to eliminate sharp edges are the most challenging parts of crafting perfect containers for a mixture of plants. I prefer to drill around the edge at the base so I can easily see when water is flowing out the bottom. On second thought, do tell me — I'd like a picture!

Dr. Diane Relf is an environmental horticulturist with Virginia Cooperative Extension and is a member of the faculty of Virginia Tech.

them with stones and plants. (Through negotiation, my old toilet planter had to go).

Anything from the house that can be made to drain can become a planter. Old plastic trash cans or laundry baskets can be utilized containers for producing tomatoes or peppers. Probably, the most popular of my household-based containers is an old shoe planted with sedums.

However, use consideration when creating plant containers from household items. If it was great-grandma's, don't fill it with

dirt. If it will not in a few weeks, as do baskets, just put dried flowers in it.

Look at everything with a new eye before you throw it away. But don't tell me later that I've created a monster and every square inch of your patio or balcony is covered with plants. On second thought, do tell me — I'd like a picture!

Dr. Diane Relf is an environmental horticulturist with Virginia Cooperative Extension and is a member of the faculty of Virginia Tech.

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HAMPTON ROADS ON THE MOVE

Let the buyer beware 'Yellow Pages' schemes

By Diane Relf
Extension Service

The most-appreciated addition to my containers is my gutter garden. The old sectional gutters that always leak are being replaced by seamless gutters. I rescued one of these old gutters and hung it on the wooden railing on my deck using the same method as construction people used to put it to its original use.

I have the advantage in that I want it to leak. Filled with synthetic soil mixes, it provides a perfect site for impatiens, petunias or begonias. The plants need to be watered frequently, but they make a real showpiece.

You can also use 55-gallon drums as containers. Cutting the drums in two and smoothing the edges to eliminate sharp edges are the most challenging parts of crafting perfect containers for a mixture of plants. I prefer to drill around the edge at the base so I can easily see when water is flowing out the bottom. Make sure that material once contained in the drum has no left toxic residue that will spell disaster to plants or people.

The three to six-gallon "mudbuckets" get their name from the fact that many of them originally contained drywall "mud." Ask for empties around new home construction sites. Well washed and provided with drainage holes, they become blank slates for decorating before planting. You may cover the outside with linoleum adhesive and broken tiles, pottery or stone. You may paint it with an enamel or epoxy paint, or you may just use it as is.

I have a "Victorian Water Garden," or so I call it, because it is in a clawfoot bathtub. I know people who buy old tubs

for small water gardens and disguise them with stones and plants. Through negotiation, my old toilet planter had to go.

Anything from the house that can be made to drain can become a planter. Old plastic trash cans or laundry baskets can be utilitarian containers for producing tomatoes or peppers. Probably, the most popular of my household-based containers is an old shoe planted with sedums.

Look at everything with a new eye before you throw it away. But don't tell me later that I've created a monster and every square inch of your patio or balcony is covered with plants. On second thought, do tell me — I'd like a picture!

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